

Child Abuse Reporting & Clergy

A symposium
for church leaders

THURSDAY

AUGUST 28, 2003

VAUGHN PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

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Child Abuse Reporting & Clergy

A symposium
for church leaders

AGENDA

Time	Session	Speaker
8:30 - 9:30 AM	Registration	
9:30 AM	Welcome	
9:35 - 10:45 AM	Ten Child Protection Questions Every Church Should Ask <i>Presentation covers cases from around the county and provides general advice on administering church policy - with sample Child Protection First policy and forms distributed on computer disk.</i>	Tom Eden, Esquire Attorney with Wallace, Jordan, Ratliff & Brandt in Birmingham
10:45 - 11:15 AM	The Reporting Process - What to expect from DHR? <i>What to expect after you've reported. Plus, how to screen church employees and volunteers using DHR and other resources.</i>	James Long Alabama Department of Human Resources, Legal Counsel
11:15 - 11:30 AM	Local Assistance <i>How to locate local child abuse referral agencies in your community.</i>	Marian Loftin Children's Trust Fund of Alabama Executive Director
11:30 AM – Noon	The Alabama Sex Offender Registry <i>Discussion of the state's sex offender registry and other resources provided by the Department of Public Safety.</i>	Corporal Karl Youngblood Alabama Bureau of Investigation Alabama Department of Public Safety
Noon	Lunch <i>Hot meal prepared by church for cost of \$5.</i>	
12:30 - 1:00 PM	Clergy & Alabama's New Child Abuse Reporting Law <i>This session would cover the statutory changes, the legal significance of the rule of evidence cited, and explanation on reporting immunity.</i>	Bill Pryor Alabama Attorney General
1:00 - 2:00 PM	Questions & Answers	Panel Discussion
2:00 PM	Adjourn	

SESSION # 1
9:35 – 10:45 A.M.

**TEN
CHILD PROTECTION
QUESTIONS
EVERY CHURCH
SHOULD ASK**

PRESENTED BY:

Tom Eden, Esquire
Attorney

Wallace, Jordan, Ratliff & Brandt in Birmingham

Ten Child-Saving Questions Every Church Must Ask

- 1. Have we considered what would happen if a child is abused in our church?**
- 2. Are we fulfilling our responsibility before God to protect the children of our church from harm?**
- 3. Do we understand the legal grounds on which our church could be sued if a child is sexually abused?**
- 4. Do we understand the benefits of having a program to prevent child sexual abuse?**
- 5. How should we screen our youth workers?**
- 6. How should we supervise our youth workers?**
- 7. How should we identify and report incidents of sexual abuse?**
- 8. How should we respond to incidents of sexual abuse?**
- 9. How do we persuade our people to cooperate with a program to prevent abuse?**
- 10. Are we acting like our church is immune to child sexual abuse?**

Child Protection First!

Child Abuse Prevention Policy

for

First Church of Alabama

PURPOSE: It is the purpose and intent of First Church of Alabama to provide a safe, secure environment to teach and care for the children and students of our faith family.

GOAL: Our goal is to protect children from sexual abuse, child molestation or any type of inappropriate sexual behavior by employees or volunteers in this church and to protect employees and volunteers from false accusations.

DEFINITION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE: The National Resource Center on Child Sexual Abuse defines child sexual abuse as "any sexual activity with a child, whether in the home by a caretaker, in a day-care situation, in any organized ministry, whether at the main facility (church) or away, or in any other setting, including on the street by a person unknown to the child. The abuser may be an adult, an adolescent, or another child.

Child sexual abuse can be violent or non-violent. It is criminal behavior that involves children in sexual behavior. Child sexual abuse can involve fondling; penetration of the oral, genital, and anal areas; intercourse; and forcible rape. Other forms of abuse can include verbal comments, any exposure to pornographic materials, inappropriate internet activity, obscene phone calls, exhibitionism, or allowing children to witness sexual activity.

DEFINITION OF A MINOR: A minor is any individual under the age of 19 years.



The policy and procedure set forth below will apply to all people who give supervision or have custody of minors or who have opportunity to have contact with minors in church facilities or church sponsored activities.

This policy will address four (4) areas that are critical for the protection of the children, our employees and our church: selection process, protection policy, reporting procedures, and responses to allegations.

I. SELECTION PROCESS

A. **Employee** – anyone who is paid by the church on a full-time or part-time basis, whether or not they work directly with preschoolers, children and students

Current employee

- Complete a confidential application form
- Complete a consent to release confidential information
- Recommendation Report completed by supervising staff member
- Criminal records check
- DHR records check authorization form
- Received letter from State of Alabama DHR stating “meets the suitability” criteria under State statute
- Received appropriate clearances of all checks to work with minors

New employee (effective _____, 2003)

- Complete a confidential application form
- Complete a consent to release confidential information
- Criminal records check
- DHR records check authorization form
- Interview by appropriate staff member
- References checked and verified
- Received letter from State of Alabama DHR stating “meets the suitability” criteria under State statute
- Received appropriate clearances on all checks to work with minors

All records, forms and reports will become a part of the employee’s confidential personnel file.

- B. **Volunteer** – anyone who is not paid by the church on a full-time or part-time basis, and is serving in any position involving the supervision or custody of minors. Examples: Nursery, childcare, preschool, grade school, middle school, high school, and college workers, bus drivers, teachers, chaperones, others as designated by the Church Administrator.

Current volunteer

- Complete a confidential application form
- Complete a consent to release confidential information
- Recommendation Report completed by supervising staff member
- DHR records check
- Possible criminal records check*
- Received letter from State of Alabama DHR stating “meets the suitability” criteria under State statute
- Received appropriate clearances on all checks to work with minors

New Volunteer (effective _____, 2003)

- Complete a confidential application form
- Complete a consent to release confidential information
- Interview by appropriate staff member
- References checked and verified
- DHR records check
- Possible criminal records check*
- Received letter from State of Alabama DHR stating “meets the suitability” criteria under State statute
- Received appropriate clearances on all checks to work with minors

*Possible criminal records checks for volunteers will be limited to any criminal activity involving the following: (1) a minor; (2) child molestation, (3) any type of sexual offense; (4) any type of pornographic or obscene material; (5) any type of physical violence; and (6) suspected child abuse.

In addition to the above requirements, a volunteer must be a member of First Church of Alabama, or regular attendee, for at least six (6) months. A volunteer who does not meet these membership requirements may serve only upon approval of the appropriate age-group minister.

- C. **Minors** – In addition to the above requirements a minor who is an employee or volunteer must also submit a separate certification from his or her parent or guardian that the parent or guardian “knows no reason why the minor should not be allowed to work directly or indirectly with other minors.”

II. PROTECTION POLICY

A. **Two Adults**

Age-group ministers, division directors, hall monitors, greeters and/or program directors will be present, or nearby, and available on each floor and in the hallways where minors are present. Reasonable effort will be made to have two (2) adult workers present, or nearby, with preschoolers, children and students during church activities. Reasonable effort shall be made to assure that one adult is not left alone with one minor. A husband and wife working the same room will typically be considered as one adult for purposes of this policy.

B. View Windows/Open Doors

Reasonable effort will be made to place preschoolers, children and students in rooms with view windows or open doors for all teaching/learning activities.

C. Over-Night Activities

All Employees and Volunteers will be required to comply with all of the Child Protection First! Policies during First Church of Alabama sponsored over-night activities.

D. Within Town Activities

All Employees and Volunteers will be required to comply with all of the Child Protection First! Policies during First Church of Alabama sponsored within town activities.

E. Out-of-Town Activities

All participants should have written parental consent and a notarized medical release form. Consent forms may be completed for a one-year period and should be renewed annually. All consent forms will be considered valid until renewed. All Employees and Volunteers shall be required to comply with all of First Church of Alabama's policies including, but not limited to, those outlined in Child Protection First! during First Church of Alabama sponsored out-of-town activities.

F. Preschool Security Policies and Age-Specific Guidelines

First Church of Alabama has a detailed, working preschool security policy (Preschool Policies and Procedures for First Church of Alabama) that should be conscientiously followed and all Employees and Volunteers shall abide by the preschool security policy as well as any other applicable age-specific guidelines and Child Protection First! Please contact the age group minister or Minister of Children relative to questions about these policies.

G. Weekday Programs

Due to the professional relationship of the teacher and student, parents understand that only one teacher may be present in certain learning or artistic performance programs. All professional teachers shall complete the "employee" selection process, even if they are volunteers.

III. REPORTING PROCEDURES

Observed or reported child sexual abuse or child molestation should be reported immediately to the appropriate age group minister or the Church Administrator or the Minister of Children. Reporting abuse can precipitate severe consequences to a family, so it should never be done casually or thoughtlessly, and certainly not for malicious purposes. At the same time, failing to report abuse can have severe consequences to a child at risk. Therefore, if you have reasonable cause to suspect abuse, you should talk with an appropriate person to see what steps could and should

be taken to protect the child and help the family. When time and circumstances permit, the report should first be made to the appropriate age-group minister, who will then proceed with the correct and thorough process.

IV. RESPONSES TO ALLEGATIONS

A. All allegations will be taken seriously and church staff will take appropriate action in accordance with the laws of the State of Alabama, insurance policy requirement, and based upon advice of legal counsel.

B. The official spokesperson for the church in any of these matters will be the Pastor or his appointee. No other staff members or church members shall speak to the media in an official capacity.

C. The church staff will document (in writing, with date and signature) all efforts in the handling of any incident.

D. The church staff will not deny, minimize, or blame any individual involved in allegations. First Church of Alabama staff will minister to all involved, as well as cooperate with authorities.

V. RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

First Church of Alabama believes that the Bible commands Christians to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian church (see Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8). Therefore, any civil claim or dispute arising from or related to allegations by or against workers, employees, volunteers, church members or their families, will be submitted to biblically based conciliation in accordance with the *Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation* of the Institute for Christian Conciliation, a division of Peacemaker Ministries. That forum provides the best opportunity for resolving issues in a fair manner while seeking to preserve or restore the relationships fractured by the dispute and allowing the Church to continue its ministry to all people. (A complete text of the Rules is available at <http://www.hispeace.org/html/geticrul.htm>.)

IV. AMENDMENT OF POLICY

The Board of _____ may amend these policies upon 30 days notice to the Church.

VII. EFFECTIVE DATE

_____, 2003.

**First Church of Alabama
Child Protection First!
Administrative Guidelines
Appendix Index**

- A Guidelines for Preschool Ministry**
- B Guidelines for Children's Ministry**
- C Guidelines for Student Ministry**
- D Ministry To Students Behavior Guidelines**
- E The State of Alabama Child Abuse Reporting Requirements**
- F What is Child Sexual Abuse?**
- G Types of Child Sexual Abuse: Touching and Non-Touching**
- H Common Symptoms of an Abused or Molested Child**
- I Confidential Volunteer and Employment Application**
- J Abuse/Molestation Incident Report Form**
- K Parental Consent, Certification, and Medical Authorization**
- L Consent To Release of Confidential Information**
- M Alabama Department of Human Resources Request for Clearance of State Central Registry on Child Abuse/Neglect**
- N Reference Contact Form**
- O Implementation Guidelines**
- P Recommendation Report**
- Q Sample Church Bulletin Announcements**
- R Applicant Processing Checklist**
- S Job Description: Child Protection First! Administrator**

SESSION # 2
10:45 – 11:15 A.M.

THE REPORTING PROCESS

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND YOUR LOCAL DHR OFFICES

PRESENTED BY:

James Long
Legal Counsel

Alabama Department of Human Resources

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DHR CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT ALLEGATION AND
DEFINITIONS

CA/N ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS CHART

CA/N ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD REVIEW CHART

DHR CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT STATISTICS

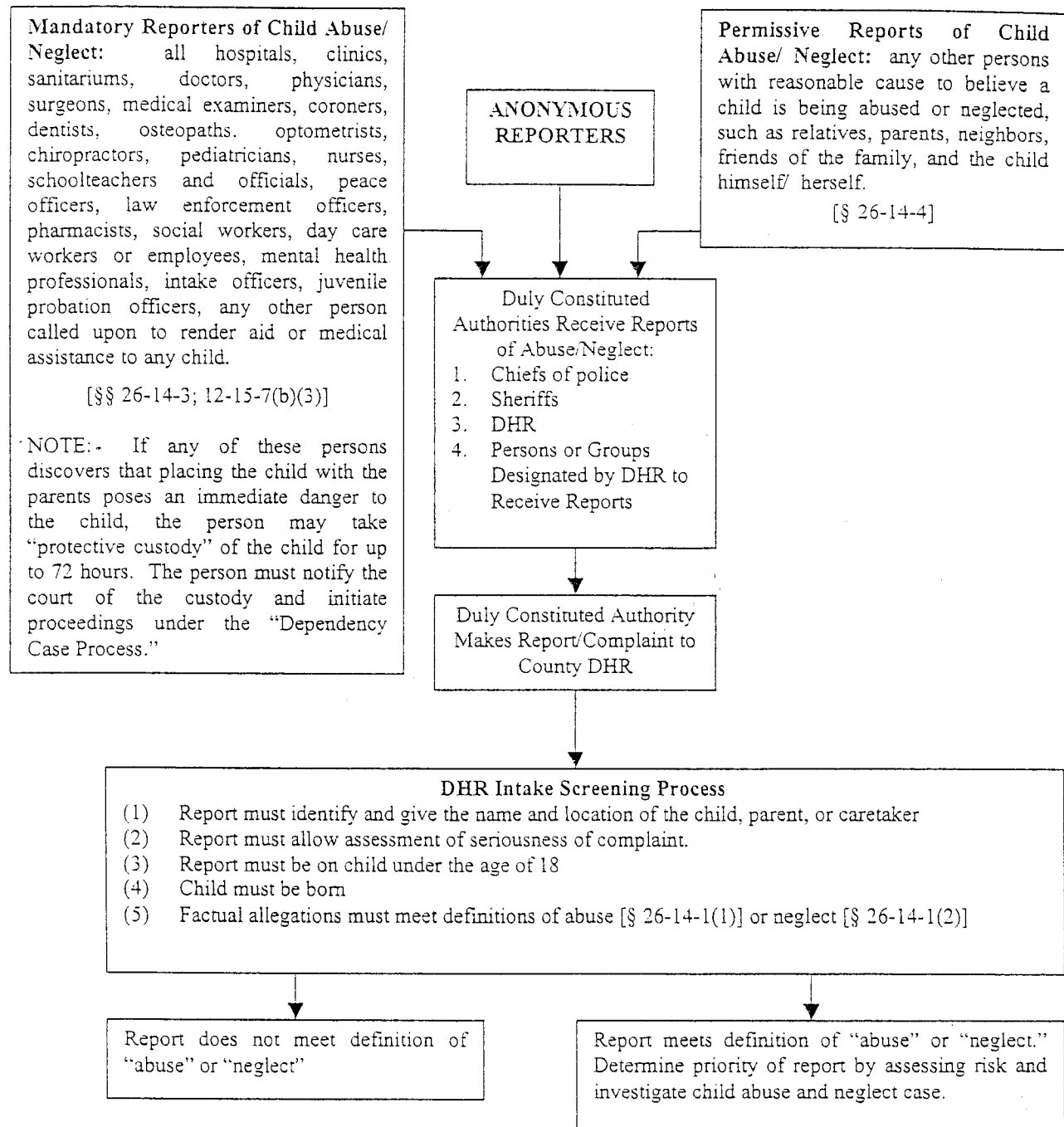
CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT REPORTING FORM

CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT CENTRAL REGISTRY CLEARANCE
FORM

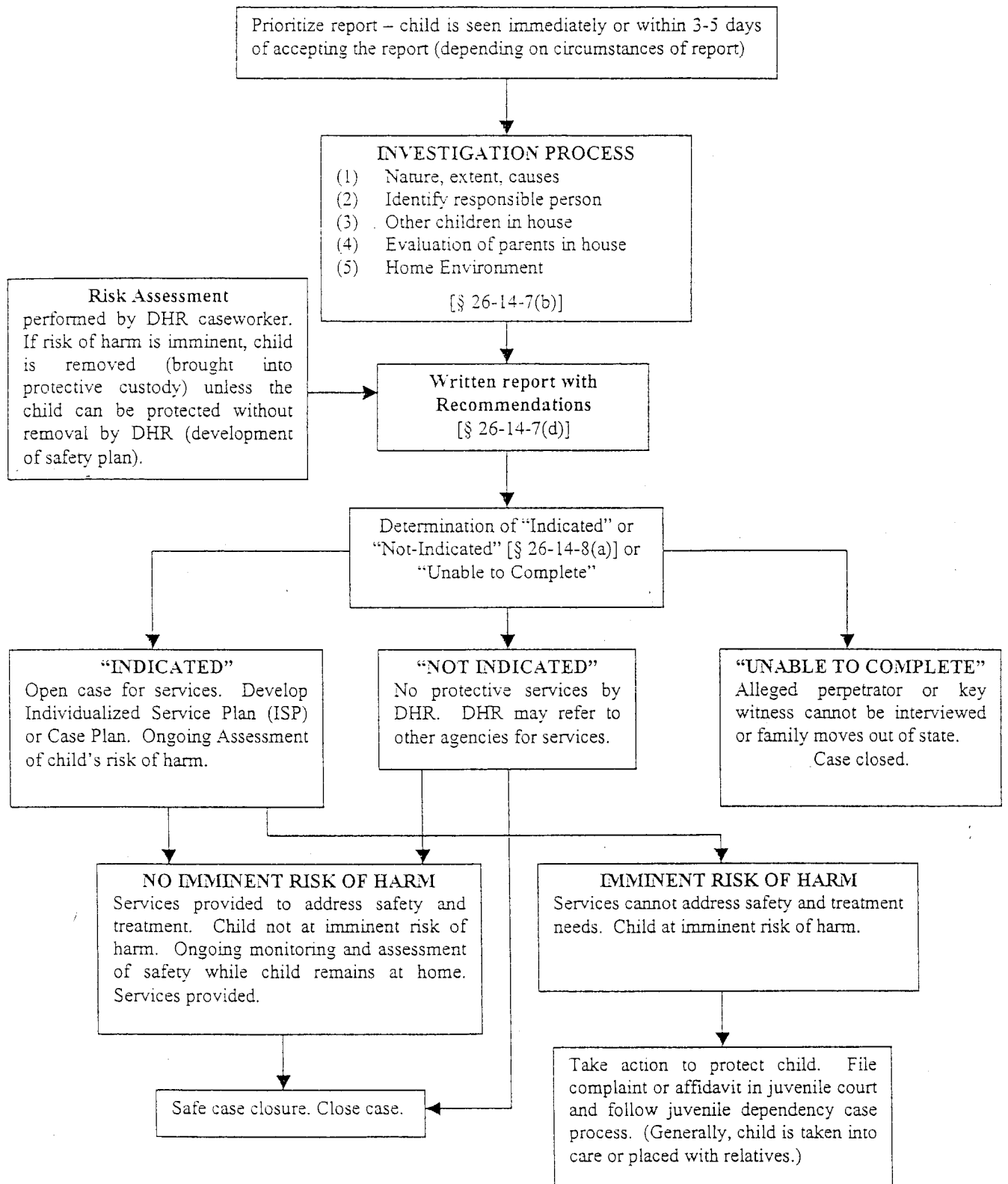
DHR COUNTY OFFICES

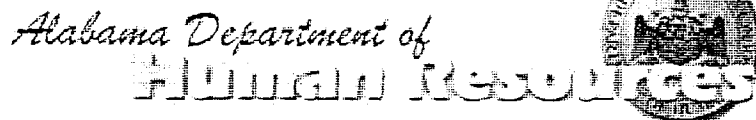
Department of Human Resources

Process for Cases of Abused/Neglected Children*



* All cites are to *Code of Alabama 1975*; ARJP: ALABAMA RULES OF JUVENILE PROCEDURE.





alabama.gov

August 26, 2003

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Welcome!

The mission of the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) is to partner with communities to promote family stability and provide for the safety and self-sufficiency of vulnerable Alabamians.

[Welcome!](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#)



Elder Abuse
Hotline
1-800-458-7214

Adoption &
Foster Inquiry
Hotline
1-866-4AL-KIDS



You need Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.0 or higher to read and print PDF files. Download a free Acrobat Reader from Adobe.

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 This Web Page was last updated on Wednesday, May 28, 2003.
 Alabama Department of Human Resources Center for Information Services.

Child Abuse Hurts: Report it Promptly

The number of children reported as abused or neglected has increased dramatically in Alabama. Your help is needed to ensure that these children receive adequate protection and services.

This pamphlet is designed to inform you of your responsibilities as a public spirited citizen to report suspected instances of abuse or neglect, and to assure you of full protection from legal action by the person you report.

Alabama law is clear on reporting abuse and neglect of children under the age of 18. If you are someone who comes in regular contact with children—a physician, a teacher, social worker, nurse, or day care worker, for example—you should be aware of your legal obligation to report incidents of suspected or obvious child abuse or neglect. If you are a concerned citizen, neighbor, friend or family member who is aware of such incidents, you should make a report to those who can take action.

The following questions and answers should help you to become aware of what constitutes child abuse or neglect, and when you should do about situations you encounter.



Child abuse can occur in wealthy, middle-class and low-income homes.

What is child abuse?

Under Alabama law, it is "harm or threatened harm to a child's health or welfare which can occur through nonaccidental physical or mental injury; sexual abuse or attempted sexual abuse; sexual exploitation or attempted sexual exploitation."

What is child neglect?

Under Alabama law, it is "negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child, including the failure to provide adequate food, medical treatment, clothing, or shelter; provided, however, that a parent or guardian is not liable for practicing his religious beliefs who thereby does not provide specified medical treatment for a child for that reason alone; shall not be considered a negligent parent or guardian; however, such an exception shall not preclude a court from ordering that medical services be provided to the child where his health requires it."

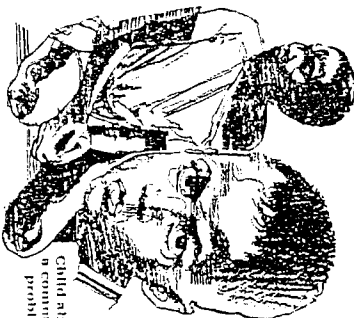
Must I report suspected child abuse and/or neglect?

Some people are required, by law, to report suspected abuse or neglect, but anyone is encouraged to make a report if he or she suspects a child is being abused or neglected. Those required, by law, to report include doctors, surgeons, medical examiners, coroners, dentists, osteopaths, optometrists, chiropractors, podiatrists, nurses, school teachers and officials, law enforcement officials, pharmacists, social workers, day care workers or employees, and mental

health professionals. Also required to report are persons called upon to render aid or medical assistance to any child when the child is known or suspected to be a victim of abuse or neglect.

How can I be certain that a child has been abused or neglected?

Certainty is not required. In most instances, the only way you could be absolutely certain that a child has been abused or neglected would be if the parent or other person admitted it. All that is required is a reasonable suspicion that a child is a victim of abuse or neglect. After investigating the report, the department determines whether abuse and/or neglect occurred.



Child abuse is a community problem.

To whom must I report?

You should make your report to your local police or sheriff, or to the Department of Human Resources. When a report is made to a law enforcement official, he must inform the department so that protective services to the child or children involved may be provided.

When must I report?

If you are among those persons required to report child abuse and neglect and you know of a child whose condition or injuries are not reasonably explainable as accidental, or if you are called on to treat such injuries, you must report immediately by telephone or in person. The law also requires you to follow your oath and report within one year. The Department of Human Resources has a form for your written report.



Abused children need protection.

What must I report?

Both verbal and written reports should include the name of the child, his whereabouts, the names and addresses of the parents or guardians, and a description of the child's condition. I won't delay reporting if you don't have all of this information, as it can be obtained later.

How am I protected?

All persons reporting suspected abuse or neglect who have acted in good faith have not and are not to be acting in good faith. They are, by law, immune from legal action, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be taken. Thus, you have full protection in the event a parent or someone else should seek to initiate action against you.

Will I have to testify in court?

That depends on the nature and severity of the case, whether court action is initiated to remove the child from the home, and whether the alleged party is prosecuted on a criminal charge.

The law specifies the time of privileged communication shall not be a separation excluded and any evidence regarding a child's injuries or the cause thereof.

What happens to the child?

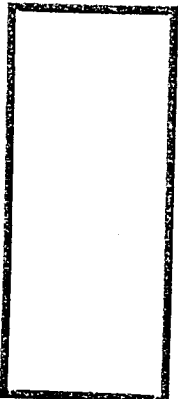
Generally, Alabama law requires the Department of Human Resources to seek out, through investigation, complaints from citizens, or otherwise, the names of children in need of care and protection and ... and such children to a fair opportunity in life."

The department works closely with the child and the parents or caretaker through direct counseling or referral to appropriate helping professionals or agencies. The purpose of providing these services is to keep the family unit together, if possible.

If removal of the child from his home is necessary, the department will petition the court for custody and make plans for substitute care of the child.

The department will continue to work with the child and seek to work with the parents to prepare them for the time when the child may be returned to their home or receive continued care elsewhere.

All programs of the Department of Human Resources are administered in accordance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.



Prepared by the Public Affairs Office
for the
Family and Children's Services Division
Office of Protective Services
State of Alabama
Department of Human Resources
DIHR Pamphlet Series 762
Revised 7-88



Report Child Abuse and Neglect
to your County Department
of Human Resources

Child Prevention Handbook Abuse



Office of the Attorney General



What is child abuse?

Too many, child abuse is narrowly defined as having only physical implications. In reality, child abuse is any act of omission or commission that endangers or impairs a child's physical or emotional health and development. This includes:

- Physical abuse and corporal punishment resulting in a traumatic condition.
- Emotional deprivation.
- Physical neglect and/or inadequate supervision.
- Medical neglect.
- Sexual abuse and exploitation.

The *act* of inflicting injury or allowing injury to result, *rather than the degree* of injury, is the determinant for intervention. A parent or caretaker may begin by inflicting minor injuries, then may increasingly cause more serious harm over a period of time. Therefore, detecting the initial small injuries and intervening with preventive action may save a child from future permanent injury or death.

Of course, physical injuries, physical neglect and malnutrition are more readily detectable than the subtle and intangible injuries which result from emotional maltreatment or deprivation. However, all kinds of abuse create serious problems and demand attention.

A critical aspect of child abuse investigating procedures involves assessment of a family's emotional relationships. When observing a family, it is important that the investigator's personal biases and preconceptions be controlled. Differentiation is to be made between practices of child rearing which are truly harmful to children and those practices which merely reflect differences in life-styles.

Family stress, created by difficulties in obtaining the basic necessities of life — including food, shelter, clothing, medical care and education — may cause parents to be less capable of providing adequately for the emotional needs of their children. In struggling for survival, such a parent may be incapable of resolving difficult situations rationally

and abuse of children may occur. Such situational stress does not constitute justification or legal defense for child abuse, but must be taken into consideration by agencies that become involved in determining appropriate protective measures against future harm of the child and/or treatment and proper punishment for the child abuser.

Although many people assume that parents are the only culprits, it is important to remember that children can become victims of abuse by persons in non-parental relationships, such as foster parents, babysitters, day care workers, etc. The guidelines which are delineated as "reasons for suspicion" in this publication are applicable to all situations or relationships involving the care and well-being of children.

PHYSICAL ABUSE AND CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Inflicted physical injury most often represents unreasonably severe corporal punishment. This usually happens when the parent is frustrated or angry and shakes or throws the child or strikes the child out of anger. Other forms of punishment may also place a child in a situation when injury occurs or the child's health or person is endangered.

Intentional, deliberate assault, such as burning, biting, cutting, poking, twisting limbs or otherwise torturing a child, is also included in this category of child abuse.

The combination of physical punishment and rage is ineffective as a disciplinary tool and can be deadly. Many experts agree that while physical punishment and rage have the immediate effect of interrupting the child's behavior, the deterrent effect is not long-term. In addition, the use of excessive corporal punishment may teach a child to resolve conflicts violently and to use physical power rather than reason to obtain results or to express anger. Physical punishment is more effective for relieving parental tension than for disciplining the child. Moreover, it frequently leaves the parent with feelings of guilt and remorse.

While there are many who believe that all corporal punishment is abusive, there are others who believe it is a useful method of discipline *under restrained conditions*. Discipline and punishment are not the same. Parents and children need to establish mutual respect and rules of behavior. Some techniques suggested for maintaining good discipline are: the giving of choices, suggesting substitutes, giving face-saving commands, removing tempting objects, setting up rituals and cooperative activities, being sensitive to a child's needs and values and keeping a sense of fair play. There are numerous books and articles which expound on these issues and are instructive and helpful for parents.

Signs of physical abuse

The *general clinical signs* of abuse (in the absence of a reasonable explanation for the injury) include:

- Damage to the skin and surface tissues, such as bruises, burns, abrasions, lacerations or swelling.
- Damage to the brain, as evidenced by convulsions, altered mental status, such as coma or irritability, retardation of developmental progress or change in the rate of head growth.
- Damage to other internal organs, as suggested by shock, abdominal pain or distention or bleeding within the organs.
- Damage to the skeleton, as evidence by swelling, pain on movement or deformity.

Indicators of *reportable suspected child abuse* generally fall into the following categories (see "Reporting child abuse"):

- Child states that injury was caused by abuse.
- Any injury unusual for a specific age group (e.g., any fracture in an infant).
- A history of previous or recurrent injury.
- Unexplained injury (e.g., parent unable to explain reason for injury; discrepancies in given explanations; blame placed on a third party; explanations inconsistent with medical diagnosis).
- Bruising in an unusual area, other than on shins, elbows, knees, for example. Certain specific bruising patterns also indicate child abuse, such as belt buckle marks, handprints, bite marks and pinches.
- Evidence of poor supervision (repeated falls down stairs; repeated ingestions of harmful substances; a child cared for by another child).
- Evidence of neglect (See "Physical neglect.")
- Any indication of sexual abuse. (See "Sexual abuse and exploitation.")
- Verbal threats against the life of a child made by a parent or caretaker.

Suspected physical abuse indicates the following types of injuries:

BURNS

Burns are often difficult to evaluate. However, the location of the burn and its characteristics (shape, depth, margins, etc.) may indicate abuse. It is important to keep in mind that children instinctively withdraw from pain. Burns without some evidence of withdrawal are highly suspect.

One burn characteristic of abuse is that which has the shape of a recognizable object evenly burned into the victim's skin. Such burns indicate forced contact or "branding" with, for example, the grill of an electric heater, the element of an electric stove or an iron.

Another burn that does not appear to be accidental is a scald burn between the shoulder blades. Such burns can result from immersion of a child's upper back in hot water. "Zebra" burns also

indicate abuse. Such burns result when a child is held by his or her hands and legs under a running hot faucet. The tissue on the child's abdomen and upper legs folds up, preventing burning in the creases. The resulting "zebra stripes" from scalding of exposed tissue are clearly evident.

A child's natural response when stepping into a tub of water is to sit down in it. This may result in burns of the feet and the entire surfaces of the buttocks if the water is hot. The child will then usually try to escape; which will result in splashes, uneven burns and sometimes burns on the hands.

In contrast, when children are forcibly held in hot water, there are often sharply demarcated burns. If held in water in a "jackknife" position, only the buttocks and genitalia may be burned. If held down forcibly in a sitting position, the center parts of the buttocks (if pressed tightly against the tub) are spared from burning, thus resulting in a "doughnut"-shaped burn. If the extremities are forcibly immersed in hot water, "glove" or "sock" burns to the hands or feet may result. The burns are often symmetric and an immersion line is readily evident.

Abuse should also be suspected when burns are pointed or deeper in the middle. This indicates that hot liquid was poured on, or a hot object (poker, utensil) pressed into the skin. Cigarette burns are difficult to diagnose, but when inflicted they are usually multiple and are often found on the palms or soles. There is a searing effect with charring around the wound.

Rope burns appear around wrists or ankles when children are tied to beds or other structures.

BRUISES

Inflicted abuse should be suspected when:

- Bruises are either multiple and all of the same color, or multiple and of different colors (differences in coloration reflect various stages of healing and indicate that the injuries were sustained at different times);
- The child is less than 12 months old (children this age would be unlikely candidates for multiple bruises);
- Bruises are found on multiple surfaces of the body, particularly on the back, genitals or mouth;
- Bruises have a characteristic pattern (outline of hand, paired bruises from pinching, loop from a cord, etc.) or clearly resemble an impression of an item of jewelry, such as a ring; and/or
- Bruises are on both sides of the face (two black eyes would be highly suspect, unless in the case of a proven accidental broken nose).

Timing or age dating (ecchymosis) of bruises can be an important factor. While the following colorations are only approximations, they can serve as a rough guide to determine when the injury occurred:

- Immediate — within a few hours: red
- Soon — from 6 to 12 hours prior: blue

— Later — from 12 to 24 hours: black-purple

— 4 to 6 days prior: green tint, dark

— 5 to 10 days prior: pale green to yellow

BITE MARKS

Bite marks (which may be found on any part of the body) may be described as doughnut-shaped or double horseshoe shaped. Occasionally, as many as 12 or more tooth impressions will be seen and in some cases as few as one or two.

Time is of the essence in recording bite marks as they become less distinct with time. Photographs, impressions and salivary swabbings can be used to collect suspected bite mark evidence. Investigators should be prepared to seek the expertise of forensic odontologists in cases where bruises are suspected bite marks.

Human bite marks can be used to reveal the identity of the abuser, due to the uniqueness of the human dentition. Bite mark evidence is admissible in the courts of Alabama and many other states, as well as in U.S. military cases.

ABRASIONS, LACERATIONS AND SCARS

Again, the multiplicity and location of wounds, as with bruises, should be considered. For example, lacerations under the tongue or those of a torn frenulum (the small piece of skin connecting the gum to the lip) could be caused by falling with an object in the mouth or by excessive force during feedings. Both are suspicious injuries, particularly before an infant can stand.

WHIPPING

Linear marks or strap marks sometimes covering a curved body surface (wraparound) are evidence of intentional abuse. Belt buckles cause a "C" — or "U" — shaped, dark wound called a "gull wing" laceration. Belt buckles can cause other wounds with distinctive shapes as well. Loop marks on the skin may be caused by a doubled-over electrical cord or rope.

HEAD INJURIES

Whenever abuse or neglect is suspected, a careful examination of the child's eyes and nervous system should be performed, looking for signs of intracranial injury. Serious intracranial injury may occur without visible evidence of trauma on the face or scalp. One such injury is a subdural hematoma (blood trapped in a space around the brain) which, if left untreated, may cause brain damage or death.

Skull x-rays should be performed in all abused children with evidence of trauma to the head, as well as in all small infants in whom abuse is suspected. All types of skull fractures should be carefully evaluated, especially when the explanation of the injury is not consistent with the presented trauma.

Head injuries are the most common cause of child abuse-related deaths.

"WHIPLASH SHAKEN INFANT SYNDROME"

The essential elements in this syndrome present an apparent diagnostic contradiction, in that intracranial and intraocular hemorrhage occur in the absence of signs of external injury to the head. Shaking, using excessive force, may produce not only these injuries, but also lesions of the long bones.

The injury may go undiagnosed for years and perhaps first be manifest at school age as minor neurologic deficits or learning problems. More severe deficits, such as blindness, deafness, or paralysis, generally appear sooner. Even death can be caused by this type of abuse. A careful post-mortem examination of every child who dies in infancy is required to detect the real cause of death and to avoid erroneous diagnoses.

PUMMELING

Blows from a heavy blunt object, such as a baseball bat or fist, on soft tissue results in deep muscular bruises or hemorrhage. These are rarely discolored. In time, such a collection of blood may be seen on x-rays. Blunt blows to the body may cause serious internal injuries to the liver, spleen, pancreas, kidneys and other vital organs. Detectable surface evidence of such trauma is present only about half the time.

FRACTURES

Any fracture in an infant or toddler is suspect. Long-bone (arm and leg) fractures that are the result of twisting are called "spiral" fractures and are almost always due to inflicted trauma.

Other fractures which raise suspicion are: "chip" fractures at the end of long bones, particularly when they occur in an infant; fractures resulting from yanking and jerking; rib fractures, especially back rib fractures; and healing or healed fractures revealed by x-rays.

ADDITIONAL SIGNS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE

Some additional factors that should raise suspicion and trigger further investigation include the following:

- Very young children with injuries on the back surfaces of the body from the neck to the knees. This is the primary target zone for infliction of physical injuries. Such injuries constitute the largest percentage of identified abuse.
- Bruises, scars and wounds on the backs of arms and hands which are called "defense" wounds.
- Excessive layers of clothing, especially in hot weather. (It may be an attempt to hide wounds).

One of the most important grounds for suspicion is the one that is discussed the least: *when a child tells someone*. It is essential that the child not be

ignored, nor the gravity of the situation minimized. It should be remembered, too, that *when a child tells a particular person who is an individual required to report child abuse, the communication is not privileged*. That individual, *BY LAW, SHALL* report what the child has related to him or her. This requirement applies to any type of communicated abuse, including situations of physical abuse, emotional assault or deprivation, physical neglect or sexual abuse. Individuals who report such suspected child abuse cases in good faith cannot be held liable, either civilly or criminally, for making such reports. (See "Reporting child abuse.") It is often advisable that the person making the report gain the confidence of the child and try to maintain a close relationship throughout the emotional ordeal likely to occur when the child abuse is reported.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Just as physical injuries can scar and incapacitate a child, emotional cruelty can similarly cripple and handicap a child emotionally, behaviorally and intellectually. Severe psychological disorders have been traced to excessively distorted parental attitudes and actions. Emotional and behavioral problems, in varying degrees, are very common among children whose parents abuse them emotionally.

Excessive verbal assaults (belittling, screaming, threats, blaming, sarcasm), unpredictable responses (inconsistency), continual negative moods, constant family discord and double-message communication are examples of ways parents may subject their children to emotional abuse.

Emotional abuse may be suspected if the child:

- Is withdrawn, depressed and apathetic.
- "Acts out," and is considered a "behavior problem."
- Is overly rigid in conforming to the instructions of teachers, doctors and other adults.
- Displays other signs of emotional turmoil (repetitive, rhythmic movements; inordinate attention to details; no verbal or physical communication with others).
- Unwittingly makes comments such as, "Daddy always tells me I'm bad."

The behavior patterns mentioned may, of course, be due to other causes, but the suspicion of abuse should not be precluded.

Emotional distress may result when:

- Demands are made on the child which are based on unreasonable or impossible expectations or without consideration of the child's developmental capacity.
- The child is used as a "battleground" for marital conflicts.
- The child is used to satisfy the parent's/caretaker's own ego needs and the child is neither old enough nor mature enough to understand.

A person who emotionally abuses a child, as well

as one who abuses a child in other ways, may tend to "objectify" the child by referring to him/her as "it" ("it" cried - "it" died).

Emotional abuse can be seen as encouraging a self-fulfilling prophecy. If a child is degraded enough, the child will begin to live up to the image communicated by the abusing parent or guardian.

Emotional abuse cases are called mental injury in the statute mandated reporting situations. Except in extreme cases such as intentional infliction of unjustifiable mental suffering, they are difficult to prove. Such cases should be diverted to treatment as soon as possible.

EMOTIONAL DEPRIVATION

Emotional deprivation has been defined as "...the deprivation suffered by children when their parents do not provide the normal experiences producing feelings of being loved, wanted, secure and worthy."

When parents ignore their children, whether because of drugs or use of alcohol, psychiatric disturbances, personal problems or other preoccupying situations such as outside activities, serious consequences may occur.

Emotional deprivation should be suspected if the child:

- Refuses to eat adequate amounts of food and is thus very frail.
- Is not thriving in general (unable to perform normal learned functions for a given age, e.g., walking, talking, etc.).
- Displays antisocial behavior (aggression, disruption) or obvious "delinquent" behavior (drug abuse, vandalism); conversely, the child may be abnormally unresponsive, sad or withdrawn.
- Constantly "seeks out" and "pesters" other adults (such as teachers, neighbors, etc.) for attention and affection.
- Displays exaggerated fears.

PHYSICAL NEGLECT

Physical neglect is essentially the failure of a parent or caretaker to provide a child with adequate food, shelter, clothing, protection, supervision and medical and dental care.

Physical neglect is suspected if the following conditions exist:

- Unsanitary conditions in home (garbage, animal or human excretion).
- Lack of heating or plumbing in home.
- Fire hazards or other unsafe home conditions.
- Sleeping arrangements are cold, dirty or otherwise inadequate.
- Nutritional quality of food in home is poor.
- Meals are not prepared (child snacks when hungry).
- Spoiled food in refrigerator or cupboards.
- The child is lacking in medical or dental care.
- The child is always dirty; poor personal hygiene.
- The child is always sleepy or hungry.

— The child's clothing is always dirty or inadequate for weather conditions.

— A child is left alone in the home or unsupervised under any circumstances (left in car, street, etc.).

While some of these conditions may exist in any home environment, *it is the extreme or persistent* presence of these factors that indicate neglect.

MEDICAL NEGLECT

Children are entitled under the law to medical treatment. A parent or guardian legitimately practicing his religious beliefs who thereby does not provide specified medical treatment for a child, for that reason alone, shall not be considered a negligent parent or guardian. This exception, however, does not preclude a court from ordering that medical services be provided to the child where his health requires it.

FAILURE TO THRIVE

Infants or young children who are much smaller than would be expected at a particular age can be a difficult diagnostic problem for physicians. After excluding those infants who are small because they were small at birth, there remains a large group of infants with low weights (and perhaps short lengths and small head circumferences). Most of these children are small because of a failure to meet their nutritional needs and/or failure to meet their emotional needs. These children may also demonstrate delayed development and abnormal behavior. Some of the small children, however, do have hidden medical problems. Hospitalization may be required to screen for significant medical illness and, more important, to see if the child responds to a nurturing environment and adequate food with a rapid weight gain and more appropriate behavior.

If left untreated, emotional disorders, school problems, retardation and other forms of abuse may ensue.

SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION

Incestuous/intrafamilial sexual abuse

Sexual abuse of children within the family is the most hidden, least publicized form of child abuse. In spite of its taboo nature and the difficulty of detection, some researchers believe such abuse may be even more common than physical abuse.

In discussing sexual abuse, "incest" means sexual activity between persons who are blood-related; "intrafamilial" refers to sexual activity between family members not related by blood (stepparents, boyfriends, etc.).

A person with no prior history of sexual problems can be tempted to sexually abuse a child in the intimacy of family life, especially at times of stress or when adult relationships are poor. A person who chooses to involve a child in sexual activity can easily make the child believe that sex is a special game or a normal and necessary part of being loved and

accepted. An older child can be convinced that he/she is at fault for seducing the parent/caretaker. The child will then fear disgrace, hatred or blame for breaking up the family if the secret is revealed.

Although some adults may believe their conduct is blameless, the harm done to the child remains the same whenever sexual abuse is committed. The abuser may convince himself that he has a duty to "show the child the facts of life." He may believe he is more loving and caring than outsiders who might "spoil" or mistreat the child. He may feel so neglected and needy himself that he feels compelled to exploit the only supporting, loving relationship he can find. He may enter the child's bedroom at night and take down the bed covers to expose the child's body or to explore it with hands or mouth. Confused and fearful of this strange, recurring behavior, the child usually pretends sleep. Sometimes the abuser's approach is more direct. The child is courted and seduced into mutual arousal or forced to masturbate or fellate the abuser. Vaginal intercourse also occurs. Full vaginal intercourse occurs even with quite young children, as well as with older children.

Sexual abuse is followed by guilt-provoking demands for secrecy and/or threats of terrible harm if the secret is revealed. Regardless of how gentle or forceful or how trivial or coincidental the first approach may have been, sexual coercion tends to be repeated and escalates over a period of years. Often the child eventually accepts the blame for tempting and provoking the abuser.

In most reported cases of sexual abuse, the father or another man acting as the parent is the initiator. While girls the most frequent victims, boys are victims of abuse much more often than previously believed. The embarrassment and shame used to deter girls from reporting such abuse has an even greater effect on boys since the abuse is most often homosexual. When responding to a case of reported abuse of a female, investigators should not overlook the possibility that male children in the family may also have been molested.

The initial sexual abuse may occur at any age, from infancy through adolescence. However, the largest number of cases involves females under the age of 11 years. The sexual activity is usually repetitive and progressive. There is no escape for the victim until he/she is old enough to realize that incest is not a common occurrence, and/or he/she is strong enough to obtain help outside the family.

The mother, who normally would be expected to protect the child, may purposely try to stay isolated from a problem of sexual abuse. Sometimes she is distant and uncommunicative, or so disapproving of sexual matters that children are afraid to speak up. Sometimes she is insecure and the potential loss of her husband or partner and the fear of scandal are so threatening that she cannot allow herself to believe or even to suspect that her child is or could be at risk. She may have been a victim herself of child

abuse and rejection and may not trust her judgment or her right to challenge the male authority. Some mothers actually know of sexual abuse; but, for whatever reason, they "look the other way."

Sometimes a child who does seek help is accused of making up stories, since many people cannot believe that the apparently well-adjusted person involved could be capable of sexual abuse. When the matter does come to the attention of authorities, the child may give in to pressure from parents/caretakers and deny that any sexual abuse has occurred. Even if protective attention is gained, the child may feel guilty about "turning in" the abuser or breaking up the family and, consequently, withdraw the complaint. This process leads many to be skeptical of the child's complaint of sexual abuse, and leave him/her feeling helpless and guilty for causing so much trouble. Everything in the secrecy and circumstances surrounding illicit sexual activity combines to make the victim carry the weight of the problem.

The sad reality is that the child often remains trapped in secrecy by shame, fear and the threats of the abuser.

Careful evaluation is necessary in a sexual abuse situation to determine whether the child should be removed from the home immediately. The mother may assure the officer or social worker that the offending male will not be allowed to return to the home. However, in view of the emotional and perhaps economic dependence the mother often has on the offending male, she may allow him back into the house. Thus, the child is again in an unprotected environment.

Even though sexual abuse is often deceptively nonviolent, it is more powerfully compelling and more often disabling than any strong-arm attack from a stranger. Yet the prognosis often can be encouraging. There can be a striking recovery when effective intervention and help are provided. Intervention alone does not interrupt the trap of sexual abuse, for the child remains burdened with guilt and helplessness unless the offending parent is forced to admit and take responsibility for his/her actions. Detection, reporting, investigation, appropriate prosecution, supervision and counseling are frequently essential parts of a family treatment process. When child abuse has been exposed, self-help organizations, such as Parents Anonymous, can be very helpful. They provide support and promote the self-esteem and emotional well-being of each family member during the process of discovery, social intervention, adjudication, resocialization and rebuilding of the family.

Sexual abuse should be suspected if:

- The child reports sexual activities with parents, other relatives, friends of the family or other adults;
- The child shows an early and exaggerated awareness of sex, with either seductive interest or

- fearful avoidance of close contact with others;
- There is tearing, bruising or specific inflammation of the mouth, anus or genitals, or evidence of semen (oral, rectal, vaginal);
- There is venereal disease of the eyes, mouth, anus or genitals of a child or adolescent;
- A girl is pregnant and appears extremely fearful, distressed or secretive;
- A child with behavioral problems hints at conflicts at home, but seems quite hesitant or fearful to talk about the problem; and/or
- A child is known to be the victim of other forms of abuse.

Exploitation/child pornography

Although it is impossible to make an exact assessment of the number of children who have been the victims of pornographic exploitation, it is clear that the number is alarmingly high.

The difficulty in assessing the number of children involved in pornography is compounded by a number of factors. First, the evidence indicates that in the vast majority of cases, this kind of sexual exploitation goes unknown to even the parents of the children. Additionally, the ever-increasing number of juvenile runaways contributes to the difficulty in making this assessment. The runaway juvenile, alone and without support in a strange city, is a particularly attractive target as a model for pornography. Finally, some parents use their own children to produce this material. Therefore, the only reasonable conclusion which can be drawn is that the number of children involved is substantial. Moreover, the number appears to be growing.

In recent years, the number of persons arrested in Alabama on suspicion of producing and disseminating child pornography has increased. These arrests have resulted in the seizure of quantities of films, magazines and still photographs which depict children involved in sexual activity. However, the problem still outweighs the arrests by a large margin.

The reproduction and distribution of child pornography has been limited, in part, due to *Code of Alabama 1975*, Sections 13A-12-190 through 13A-12-198, which provide essentially:

- that any parent or guardian who knowingly permits any child under 17 years of age to participate in the production of pornography is guilty of a felony;
- that anyone convicted of producing or distributing obscene materials depicting a child under 17 years of age is guilty of a felony;
- that anyone who possesses three or more copies of the same obscene material depicting a child under 17 years of age is guilty of a felony.

(For further details on this law, see "The legal aspects" and Appendix V.)

Child Molesters

In contrast to what is perceived as forced sexual abuse or exploitation, this section deals with child victims of sexual abuse who are usually consenting partners, or noncomplaining victims.

The concept of these children as consenting partners or noncomplaining victims does not fit with society's image of an unsuspecting child being lured into a car with a candy bar. A large proportion of these willing children includes runaways, who are reasonably "streetwise," and emotionally troubled children who trade themselves for money or for what they perceive as attention and affection. Often these children have been sexually victimized when very young by members of their family.

The label "child molester" refers to a male or female (but most often, an older adult heterosexual male) who receives sexual gratification from young children. A male (adult homosexual) or female who receives sexual gratification from young boys is commonly referred to as a "chickenhawk."

Child molesters usually have a specific age preference and are "benevolent keepers" of their child victims. Many suspects are, in fact, wealthy and financially secure men or women who can afford to provide elaborate gifts for their victims. For most of their time together, the suspect caters to the child's wants and needs in a exaggerated caring relationship. In return, the child willingly submits to sexual activity. While this perverse form of attention and affection may be especially appealing to an isolated runaway child, the danger of such sexual exploitation is certainly not limited to runaways. It can and does represent a danger to any child whose parent/caretaker fails to provide necessary attention and affection or to a child who has been sexually abused as a young child.

The use of pornographic material by the child molester is extensive. This is evidenced by the ever-increasing volume of pornographic material seized in investigations of sexual exploitation cases. The statements of victims corroborate this evidence. Pornographic literature is a device by which a suspect can steer a normal conversation with a juvenile toward a sexual theme. It is used to stimulate both suspect and victim and to assist in breaking down inhibitions. The nature of the literature usually will correspond with the suspect's particular sexual inclinations, and the models used are usually of the age the suspect prefers.

Pamphlets which have been seized by law enforcement provide suggestions to child molesters about what to do, where to go and "come-ons." They include cartoons depicting sexual activity to which a child can relate.

For a solution to be found, there needs to be an increased awareness and understanding of the

growing problem of sexual exploitation of children.

MORE ON THE EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM

Statistical data to describe the magnitude of child abuse and neglect across the nation are, at best, inconsistently used. The probability that child abuse and neglect are leading causes of childhood deaths seems to be generally accepted. However, official state and national statistics identify causes of death from abuse and neglect mainly in medical terms (per "International Classification of Diseases" listings). For example, a child whose death is officially recorded as pneumonia may, in fact, have contracted the illness as a result of being poorly clothed, fed, bedded or medically neglected. Thus, many child abuse experts feel that abuse or neglect may well be the underlying cause in many cases where the cause is medically described.

On the basis of existing information, national estimates indicate that more than one million American children are suffering from abuse and/or neglect at any given time and that approximately one-quarter of these will be injured for life as a result. The number of reported cases of child abuse and neglect has been increasing steadily in the last several years. It is uncertain whether this trend reflects an actual increase in the number of children being mistreated, the increased exposure of abuse, the increase in the number of people willing to report, or a combination of all three.

The gathering of information and statistics is recognized as a problem at most levels of government. Efforts, however, are being made to develop systems which will reflect more accurately the scope and degree of child abuse and neglect.

In reviewing available data from a variety of sources, it is generally recognized that a great deal of reported abuse and neglect is committed against children under four years of age. It cannot be stressed strongly enough that *we have to rely on third-party reporting of these cases.*

The problem of adolescent abuse is often underestimated. For a variety of reasons, adolescents are frequently bypassed in the protective system. First of all, they are considered to be less "at risk" than younger children who can be severely injured by parents or caretakers. Secondly, adolescents are seen as having options increasingly available. They are not considered as helpless as younger children. They are able to leave the house until the parent/caretaker "calms down." The adolescent can fight back or, in some cases, "take it" with only temporary discomfort. However, many of the child prostitutes who walk the streets at night or the youngsters involved in

alcohol and drug abuse are victims of physical or sexual abuse and neglect at home. Thus, adolescents may have more options, but they are not necessarily positive options. Adolescent abuse remains a serious problem which deserves attention and action.

**CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT (CA/N)
ALLEGATIONS AND DEFINITIONS**

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I. Introduction

A. Serious Harm

Child protective services' central purpose is to protect children from serious harm. Serious harm is defined as significant physical injury; sexual abuse; severe impairment in a child's functioning; permanent disability or disfigurement; or death. "Severe impairment in a child's functioning" is a serious deficit in a child's behavior or cognition.

This document describes specific types of abuse and neglect as defined by DHR. The common theme running through the definitions is that serious harm is present or threatened. The Intake and Initial Assessment flow charts (refer to Appendix) visually reflect how protecting children from serious harm drives the intake and initial assessment processes, and guides DHR's decision-making.

B. Abuse And Neglect Defined

Abuse occurs when serious harm is inflicted non-accidentally on a child by any person age fourteen (14) years or older.

Neglect occurs when parents or primary caregivers negligently fail to protect children from a risk of serious harm.

C. Poverty Versus Neglect

Child abuse and neglect occurs across all socioeconomic, religious, and ethnic groups. Economic factors are often found in combination with other factors (e.g., child, parent, and family factors) as contributing to abuse/neglect. Family stresses caused by poverty, as evidenced during times of increased unemployment and recession, is associated with higher rates of reported abuse/neglect. It is essential that child welfare staff make the distinction between poverty and neglect. Neglect may be evident when parents or primary caregivers do not use their resources to provide their children with basic care and protection. Poverty, not neglect, may be evident when families use resources available to them, but are unable to meet their children's basic needs. If poverty is determined to be the sole reason for the alleged neglect, the disposition would be "not indicated." Since poverty can result in children not receiving proper care, child welfare staff must be prepared to help families access needed services.

Note: Code of Alabama 1975 § 12-15-71 (a) (6) provides that children cannot be removed from their parents' custody solely because of emergency housing needs.

D. Cultural Diversity And Child Abuse/Neglect

Cultural diversity must also be considered when child welfare staff intervene in children's and families' lives. As child welfare staff analyze information collected during intake and initial assessment, they must recognize and consider cultural factors which may be influencing the reporter's information as well as the child's/family's situation. What one culture defines as child abuse and neglect may be socially acceptable interaction in another culture. Given these considerations, collecting information during intake and assessment from individuals who understand the family's culture may be necessary.

Examples of cultural issues include, but are not limited, to:

- alcohol consumption during religious ceremonies; or
- attitudes and practices related to the use of physical punishment.

While cultural practices must be considered, the presence of "cultural practice" as an explanation for abuse/neglect is not sufficient, in and of itself, to preclude a finding of abuse/neglect if abuse/neglect is otherwise indicated.

II. ALLEGATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

The specific CA/N allegations and definitions described in this section are consistent with the statutory abuse/neglect definitions in Code of Alabama 1975 § 26-14-1(1) through (3).

Child welfare staff shall utilize one (1) or both of the following methods to verify alleged abuse/neglect.

- Direct observation by a child welfare worker or law enforcement officer;
- A written or verbal statement by a medical professional.

A specific verification method may be required for some allegations. In such cases, that method is specified within the definitions that follow.

Note: A court finding of abuse/neglect is not required to have an "indicated" disposition; however, when courts do find that the abuse/neglect occurred, that finding automatically justifies an "indicated" disposition.

PHYSICAL INJURIES

BONE FRACTURES

Definition

A fracture is a broken bone. This allegation also includes skull fractures. The most common fracture types that might be encountered in medical reports are:

Chips: A small piece of bone is flaked from the major bone part.

Simple: The bone is broken, but there is no external wound.

Compound: The bone is broken and there is an external wound leading to the fracture site or bone fragments are protruding through the skin.

Comminuted: The broken bone is splintered into pieces.

Spiral: The fracture encircles the bone in the form of a spiral; usually caused by a twisting motion.

Additional Verification

Written or verbal statement by a medical professional; and preferably a neurosurgeon or radiologist for skull fractures.

BURNS/SCALDING

Definition

Burns

Tissue injury resulting from excessive exposure to thermal (dry heat), chemical, electrical, or radioactive agents. Effects vary according to the type, duration, and intensity of the agent and the body part involved.

Burn Classifications:

First Degree: Superficial burns with damage (e.g., scorching, painful redness) limited to the outer skin layer.

Second Degree: Damage extends into the inner skin layers with blistering present within 24 hours.

Third Degree: Skin is destroyed; damage extends into underlying tissues which may be charred or coagulated.

Scalding: A burn to skin or flesh caused by moist heat and hot vapors (e.g., steam).

Additional Verification

All immersion burns and burns of suspicious or unknown origin (e.g., suspected cigarette burns; burns appearing to have been caused by a hot instrument being applied to the skin) must be diagnosed/verified by a physician.

Diagnosis/verification by a physician is not always necessary for severe burns; however, they need to be examined by a physician for any needed medical treatment.

CUTS, BRUISES

Definition

Cuts

Open incisions or breaks in the skin made by some external agent.

Bruises

Bleeding within the skin where the skin is discolored, but not broken.

Note: Injuries resulting from excessive corporal punishment are also included under this allegation.

Corporal Punishment

Alabama laws and court decisions support the use of corporal punishment by parents and those acting "in loco parentis" (e.g., school teachers) to discipline children. State courts have held that bruising produced by corporal punishment does not, in and of itself, constitute abuse, and parents or primary caregivers have the right to choose disciplinary methods as long as their actions do not constitute abuse.

Consider the following factors when determining whether cuts or bruises (including those resulting from corporal punishment) constitute abuse/neglect.

- age (children under 3 years old are at a much greater risk of harm, and bruises/cuts resulting from corporal punishment are generally considered significant enough to constitute child abuse/neglect);
- children's physical, mental, and emotional condition;
- any developmental, physical, or mental disability, particularly if it impairs the children's ability to protect themselves (e.g., ability to verbalize or communicate);

- location and severity of the injury and for bruises, the size, number, depth, and extent of discoloration;
- parents' or primary caregivers' explanation of how the injury occurred; whether an instrument was used, and if so, what kind; and
- previous history of indicated abuse or neglect.

Corporal punishment, even when bruises are present, is not considered abusive when all the following factors are present.

- the punishment is administered by a parent or someone acting in the parent's place;
- the punishment's sole purpose is to restrain or correct the child; and
- the force used is reasonable in manner, moderate in degree, and is not reckless or disregarding of the child's vulnerability.

HUMAN BITES

Definition

Wounds, bruises, cuts, or indentations in the skin caused by seizing, piercing, or cutting the skin with the human teeth.

INTERNAL INJURIES

Definition

Injuries (not visible from the outside) to the organs occupying the thoracic, abdominal, or cranial cavities which are caused by physical force (e.g., hitting, kicking, shaking). These injuries can result in a loss of consciousness, seizure, and mental or physical damage.

Additional Verification

Written or verbal statement by a medical professional

SPRAINS/DISLOCATIONS

Definition

Sprain

Trauma to a joint which causes pain and limited range of motion depending upon the degree of injury to the ligaments.

Dislocation

Displacement of a bone from its normal position in a joint.

Additional Verification

Written or verbal statement by a medical professional

TYING/CLOSE CONFINEMENT/BIZARRE DISCIPLINE

Definition

Tying/Close Confinement

Unreasonable restriction of a child's mobility, actions, or physical functioning by tying the child to a fixed (or heavy) object, tying limbs together, or forcing the child to remain in a closely confined area which restricts physical movement.

Bizarre Discipline

Extreme or aberrant disciplinary actions, events, and/or devices, used in an attempt to set behavioral standards or to modify behavior, which are manifestly over-reactive to the child's behavior and the disciplinary situation; and which place the child at risk of serious harm.

Examples of tying/close confinement include, but are not limited to:

- Tying one or more of a child's limbs to a bed, chair, or other object;
- Restraining limbs to the point where blood circulation is affected;
- Tying the child's hands or feet; and
- Locking a child in a closet for any period of time.

Examples of bizarre discipline include, but are not limited to:

- forcing children to kneel on objects that cause pain;
- tying the penis to stop bed wetting;
- threatening to kill/injure or killing/injuring a child's pet;
- placing unsafe amounts of pepper or tabasco in the mouth; and
- forcing the child to drink Drano or other noxious/choking substances.

MENTAL ABUSE/NEGLECT

Definition Extreme and aberrant behavior that directly results in severe impairment to a child's functioning.

Circumstances that may indicate abuse/neglect include, but are not limited to:

- family violence episodes that continue to the extent that a child's school grades drop significantly and the child becomes severely emotionally disturbed
- parent repeatedly curses, yells, screams at child or repeatedly demeans child which results in child becoming suicidal or violent.

Additional Verification Written statement based on a mental health professional's evaluation.

SEXUAL INJURIES

The following four (4) allegations (i.e., exploitation, molestation, penetration, and sexually transmitted disease) constitute child sexual abuse. Sex abuse, as defined in the child abuse reporting statute, is based on the criminal statutes which contain specific factors (i.e., age, relationship, consent, and deviation) that determine whether a particular sexual activity constitutes child sexual abuse.

Due to the complexity of sexual abuse and associated statutes, behaviorally specific and detailed information must be gathered by child welfare staff during intake and initial assessment. Refer to "*Sexual Abuse Guidelines*" for additional information on activities that constitute child sexual abuse.

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Definition Sexual use of a child for sexual arousal, gratification, advantage, or profit.

Note: Penetration and molestation are separate CA/N allegations; therefore, they are excluded from this definition. In addition, detailed information may not be known at intake about the purpose of the sexual use; therefore, the report shall be taken and sufficient details obtained during the CA/N initial assessment.

Sexual exploitation includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. indecent solicitation of a child, or enticement for the purpose of committing a sexual act or fondling of a sexual or genital part or breast of a child under age 16 (§ 13A-6-69)

Note: Enticement may be verbal or by gesture (e.g., enticing a child with alcohol and/or drugs for the purpose of an immoral act; inviting a child, without other enticements, into a house for the purpose of committing an immoral act; inviting a child into a home and subsequently showing sexually explicit pictures of a married couple and children performing the act of fellatio);

2. exposing sexual organs to a child for the purpose of sexual arousal or gratification

Note: The exposure of one's buttocks only does not constitute indecent exposure.

3. promoting, allowing, permitting, intimidating or encouraging a child to engage in masturbation (§ 13A-6-68) of others or to openly engage in self-masturbation;
4. promoting, allowing, permitting, forcing, intimidating or encouraging a child to engage in or soliciting patrons for prostitution of a child under age 16, (§ 13A-12-110, et seq.);
5. promoting, allowing, permitting, forcing, intimidating or encouraging a child(ren) to engage in sexual contact or other sexual activities with other children or adults;
6. allowing, permitting, encouraging or engaging in the obscene or pornographic photographing, filming, or depicting of a child for commercial purposes; and,
7. showing, exhibiting, displaying, selling, renting, distributing obscene materials or sexual conduct to an unmarried child under age 18 (§13A-12-200, et seq.).

SEXUAL MOLESTATION

Definition

Sexual conduct with a child when such contact, touching or interaction over or under the child's clothes is used for arousal or gratification of sexual needs or desires.

Sexual molestation includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. fondling, touching or pinching intimate or other parts of the child's body generally associated with sexual activity;
2. encouraging, forcing, or permitting a child to inappropriately touch intimate or other parts of another's body generally associated with sexual activity (§ 13A-6-69); and
3. contact or touching, however slight, but not penetration between the intimate or sexual parts of the person allegedly responsible for maltreatment and the intimate or sexual parts of a child.

(Sexual abuse § 13A-6-66 et seq. and sexual conduct § 13A-6-60)

SEXUAL PENETRATION

Definition

Any intrusion or entrance, however slight, through use of digits (i.e., fingers or toes), through use of an inanimate object, or between the sex organ, mouth or anus of one person and the sex organ, mouth or anus of another person.

Sexual penetration includes acts commonly known as:

- oral sex (cunnilingus, fellatio);
- anal sex (penetration);
- sexual intercourse (coition or copulation);
- sexual intercourse to the point of orgasm and ejaculation of semen (coitus);
- digital penetration; and
- penetration of the vagina, anus, or mouth with an inanimate object with the intent to sexually abuse a child under age twelve (12) (§12-6-65.1).

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE

Definition A disease which was originally acquired as a result of sexual penetration or sexual contact with an afflicted individual (Refer to the Appendix for additional information on sexually transmitted diseases).

Diagnosis of any non-neonatal, sexually transmitted infection in a child who is prepubertal raises the strong possibility of sexual abuse (unless proven otherwise). The presence of any sexually transmitted infection in older children may also be due to sexual abuse.

Additional Verification Written or verbal statement by a medical professional.

NEGLIGENT TREATMENT

ABANDONMENT

Definition The parents' relinquishment of caregiving responsibility and there is no current caregiver or the current caregiver can no longer provide care.

FAILURE TO THRIVE

Definition Child's weight, height, and motor development fall significantly short of normal children's average growth rate (i.e., below the 5th percentile).

Failure to thrive is a serious medical condition most often seen in children under age 1. The condition may be due to organic reasons (e.g., serious kidney, heart, intestinal disease; brain damage) or may result from failure to meet a child's nutritional and/or emotional needs.

Additional Verification Written or verbal statement by a physician that the child's condition is non-organic in nature.

INADEQUATE CLOTHING/PERSONAL HYGIENE

Definition Failure to provide clothing and/or personal hygiene to the extent that it poses a risk of serious harm to the child. This allegation applies to children under age twelve (12) and to those children, regardless of age, who have a disability that prevents self-care.

Factors to consider include:

- child's age; physical condition, mental ability, level of functioning;
- frequency and severity of occurrence; and
- previous history of occurrences.

Note: Having head lice, in and of itself, is not considered inadequate personal hygiene. Other symptoms/indicators must also be present before this allegation can be disposed of as "indicated."

Circumstances that may indicate a risk of serious harm include, but are not limited to:

- twelve (12) month old child, recently released from the hospital after a severe episode with pneumonia, is being brought to the doctor on cold January days for follow-up care while wearing only a diaper and thin T-shirt with no shoes or socks
- fifteen (15) year old physically disabled youth is wheelchair-bound and wearing soiled diapers which have resulted in sores on the genitals and buttocks

INADEQUATE FOOD

Definition Failure to provide food sufficient to sustain normal functioning and prevent serious harm.

INADEQUATE SHELTER

Definition Parents' or primary caregivers' failure to provide shelter that protects against risks of serious harm.

The shelter must protect the children from weather elements and other hazards (in the dwelling and on the property) that pose a risk of serious harm.

Adequate shelter includes a heating or cooling source (if needed for health reasons) and access to water and sanitary facilities for personal hygiene.

A lack of sanitation/cleanliness constitutes neglect when it poses a safety threat (i.e., risk of serious harm) to children.

Note: Code of Alabama 1975, § 12-15-71 (a) (6), as amended, prohibits the removal of children from their parents' custody solely because of an emergency housing need.

INADEQUATE SUPERVISION

Definition

Failure to provide supervision that protects children from serious physical harm or sexual abuse.

Factors to consider include, but are not limited to:

- children's age, physical and mental condition, and developmental stage particularly as they relate to the ability to make sound judgments about providing self-care and protection;
- children's location and the parents' presence or accessibility to the children;
- frequency and duration of occurrence; and
- time of day or night incidents occur.

Circumstances that may indicate a risk of serious harm include, but are not limited to:

- Children are being left alone or with siblings in situations that pose a risk of serious harm (given the children's age, physical condition, maturity, and judgment).
- Parents or primary caregivers display erratic or impaired behavior, engage in substance/alcohol abuse, suffer from severe emotional disturbances, and/or are unable to cope; and the resulting behaviors, alone or in combination, are of such duration and intensity that the bare minimum of child-care tasks cannot be performed.
- Parents or primary caregivers exhibit behaviors that pose a risk of serious harm (e.g., leaving a child in an unventilated car in the summer heat or in cold temperatures without heat; leaving a young child alone without access to a responsible adult or without knowledge of how to reach help).

- Parents or primary caregivers child care plan poses a risk of serious harm.
- Parents make no effort to intervene or to obtain assistance when the child is engaged in substance abuse, criminal activity, or status offenses.
- Parents have guns, controlled or illegal substances, and/or poisonous or noxious substances in the home and the children have unsupervised access to them.
- Child is consuming a mood altering substance which poses a risk of serious harm, and the parents or primary caregivers are encouraging, insisting, or permitting the child to consume the substance.

Mood altering substances include cannabis (marijuana), hallucinogens, stimulants (including cocaine), sedatives (including alcohol and Valium), narcotics, or inhalants.

Consider, at a minimum, the following factors when determining if the substance misuse constitutes abuse/neglect.

- * child's age;
- * frequency of misuse;
- * whether the substance is illegal;
- * degree of behavioral dysfunction or physical impairment;
- * child's culture (particularly as it relates to using alcohol in religious ceremonies or on special occasions); and
- * parents' attempt to control an older child's substance misuse or seek help for the child.

MEDICAL NEGLECT

Definition

Failure to provide medical or dental treatment for a health problem which, if untreated, could cause serious harm.

Note: The following situations, in and of themselves, do not constitute medical neglect and require the presence of some other condition or situation which might cause harm to the child.

- Failure of parents or primary caregivers to obtain immunizations for their children; refer these reporters to the Department of Public Health.

- Failure of parents or primary caregivers to sign permission slips for school physicals.

Religious objection. Any parent who, in good faith, allows treatment by spiritual means alone or through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination by a duly accredited practitioner shall not, for that reason alone, be considered neglectful under any provision of these definitions unless the judge in a court of law finds that it is in the child's best interest for the court to take jurisdiction.

DHR must petition a court of law for a decision about adherence to religious beliefs as the basis for refusal or failure to seek, obtain, and follow through with either diagnostic procedures or medical, mental, or dental treatment in any situation where, according to medical opinion, failure to provide these may result in permanent disability or death to the child.

"Medical neglect of handicapped infants" (P.L. 98-457) is also included under this allegation, and is defined as withholding nourishment and medically indicated treatment from infants (i.e., any child less than one year old) solely on the basis of the infant's present or anticipated mental or physical impairment.

"Withholding medically indicated treatment" is defined as failure to respond to an infant's life-threatening conditions by providing treatment (including appropriate nutrition, hydration, and medication) which, in the treating physician's reasonable medical judgment, will most likely be effective in ameliorating or correcting life-threatening conditions.

Medical neglect of handicapped infants (P.L. 98-457) requires special procedures (refer to *Special CA/N Procedures*) when assessing treatment decisions. These procedures will also be used with:

- other severely disabled children when DHR is called upon to intervene, on behalf of the child, in the proposed medical treatment plan, and
- in situations where children in DHR custody or planning responsibility are older than one (1) and they have a life-threatening medical condition.

Treatment to ameliorate or correct life-threatening conditions may be withheld in the following situations:

- infant is chronically and irreversibly comatose; or

- treatment would merely prolong death, would not be effective in ameliorating or correcting the infant's life-threatening conditions, or would otherwise be futile in terms of the infant's survival; or
- the treatment itself, under the circumstances, would be inhumane.

Additional
Verification

Written or verbal statement by a medical professional

DEATH

Definition

Permanent cessation of all vital functions.

The following also define death:

- total irreversible cessation of cerebral function, spontaneous function of the respiratory system, and spontaneous function of the circulatory system;
- the final and irreversible cessation of perceptible heart beat and respiration.

FACTITIOUS DISORDER BY PROXY

Definition

A form of child abuse where the parents or primary caregivers, in order to gain attention for themselves, exaggerate/fabricate and/or induce illness or symptoms in a child, placing the child at risk of serious harm.

Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy is a narrower type of Factitious Disorder by Proxy in which the main gain for the parents or primary caregivers is attention from the medical or mental health community. The parents or primary caregivers have an intense need or compulsion to be in a relationship with the medical or mental health community, and the child is used to obtain and maintain this relationship.

Diagnostic indicators include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Parent fakes the child's illness or symptoms; upon examining the child, the physician finds no evidence of what the parent has described.
- Signs and symptoms of a child's illness quickly cease when the child and parent or primary caregiver are physically separated.

Additional
Verification

Written statement by a medical professional

FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME / DRUG WITHDRAWAL

Definition Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and drug withdrawal (excluding methadone) that is attributed to the mother's substance use or addiction.

Infants who test positive for drugs at birth are considered CPS Prevention cases, not CA/N reports, and an assessment is required.

OTHER RISK OF SERIOUS HARM

Definition Serious harm has not yet occurred, but a child has been placed in a situation that can result in significant physical injury; sexual abuse; severe impairment in the child's behavioral and/or cognitive functioning; permanent disability or disfigurement; or death.

Use this allegation when no other allegations apply and the total circumstances lead a reasonable person to believe that the child is at other risk of serious harm.

Circumstances that may indicate the children are at other risk of serious harm include, but are not limited to, the following:

- family violence places the children at risk of serious harm;
- a person, upon release from prison for child physical/sexual abuse or who has a prior indicated CA/N in the Central Registry, is known to be living in the home with any child or has regular access to the child, and the past history of indicated abuse provides reason to believe another child may be at risk of serious harm;
- a person previously responsible for abuse who has been ordered to remain out of the home, returns, and has access to the child;
- non-accidental death of one child provides reason to believe that another child in the home may be at risk of serious harm;
- selling , trafficking, or having drug users in and out of the home which places the children at serious risk of harm;
- parents or other household members are abusing drugs and/or alcohol to the extent that the children are placed at risk of serious harm (e.g., parent arrested for DUI with child in the car).

Department of Human Resources

CA/N Administrative Hearings

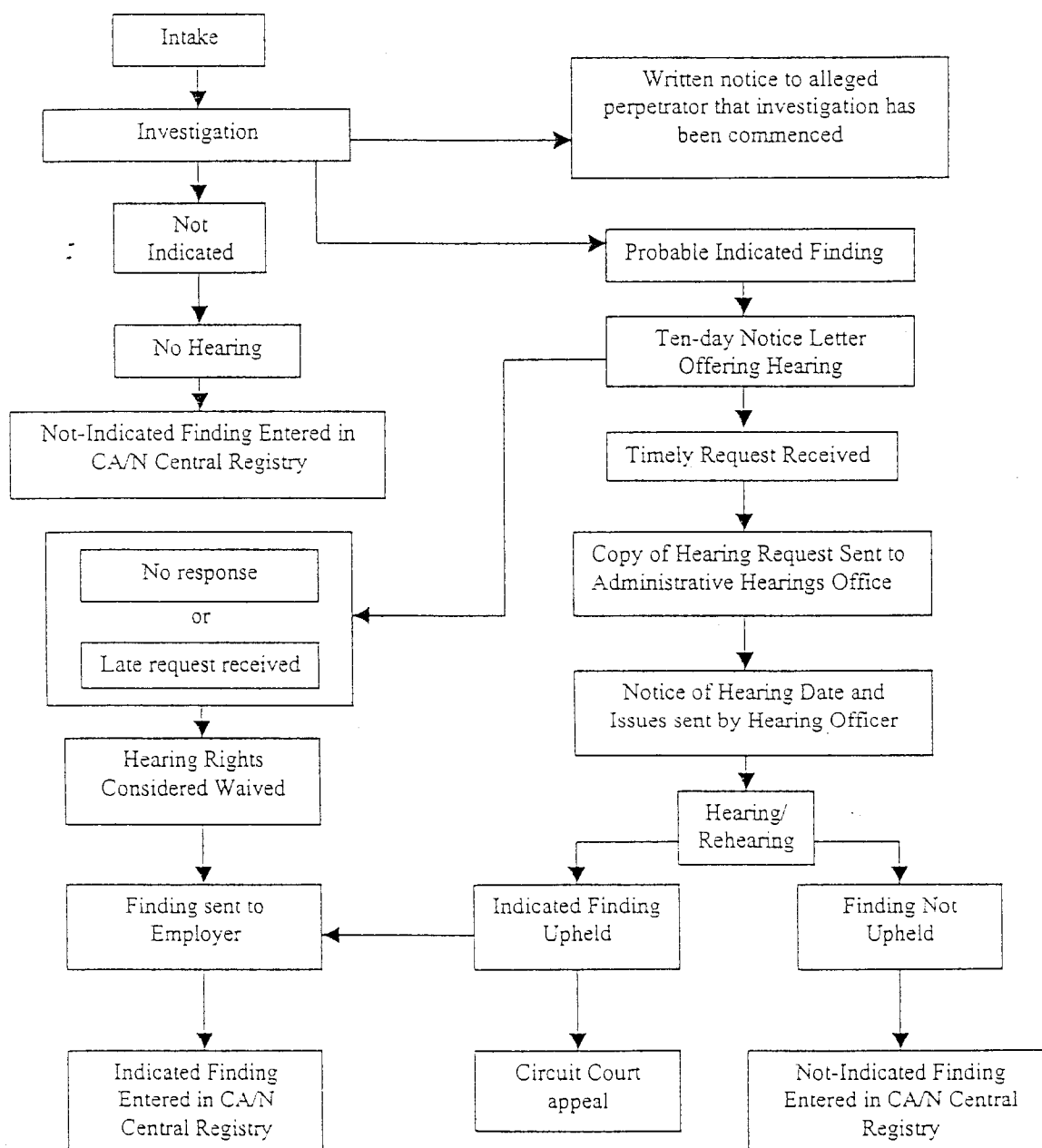
Code of Alabama 1975, § 26-14-7.1, HEARINGS

COVERAGE: Persons with probable indicated CA/Ns who are either

1. employed by,
2. serve as volunteers for,
3. hold a license or certificate for, or
4. connected with:

any facility, agency or home providing care for children which is either licensed, approved, certified, state-operated, or exempt public, private, or religious facility or agency; or are

5. in college or training programs, etc., preparing for careers in which they will work with children or vulnerable adults

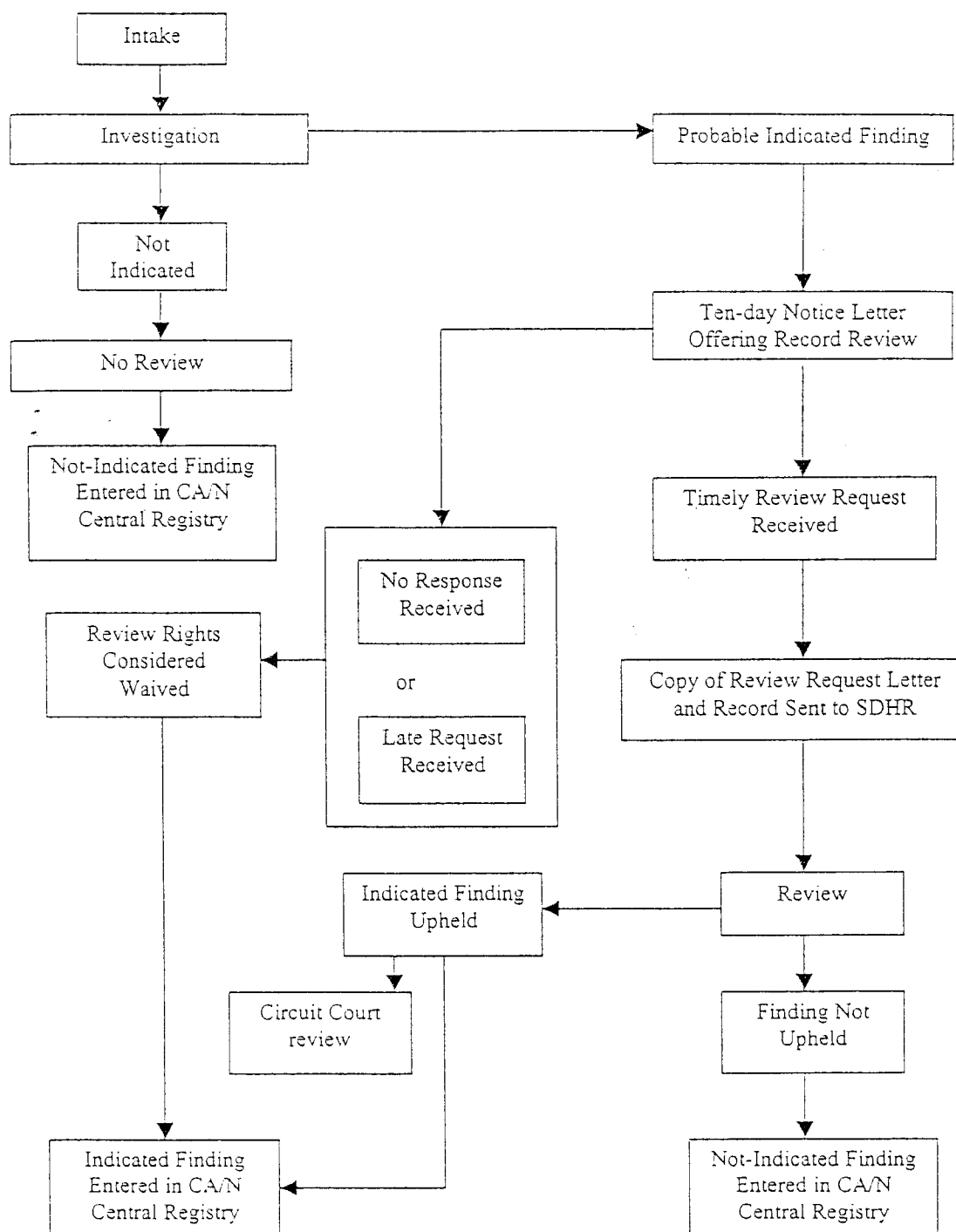


Department of Human Resources

CA/N Administrative Reviews

CAPTA RECORD REVIEWS

COVERAGE: Persons with probable indicated CA/Ns who are *not* covered by § 26-14-7.1 Hearings



	REPORTS	CHILDREN
I. NUMBER OF REPORTS/CHILDREN RECEIVED:	19,635	23,340
NOT REFERRED FOR CPS INVESTIGATION:	441	549
REFERRED FOR CPS INVESTIGATION:	19,194	27,791
II. NUMBER OF RECEIVED REPORTS BY REPORT TYPE		
FAMILY: 19,355	LICENSED/APPRVD/CERTFD PROVDR: 233	OTHER: 47
III. NUMBER OF DISPOSED REPORTS BY REPORTING SOURCE		
SOCIAL SERVICE PERSONNEL:	1,730	MEDICAL PERSONNEL: 1,838
MENTAL HEALTH PERSONNEL:	751	LEGAL, LAW ENFORCEMENT OR
EDUCATION PERSONNEL:	3,291	CRIMINAL JUSTICE PERSONNEL: 4,242
SUBSTITUTE CARE PROVIDERS:	51	CHILD DAY CARE PROVIDERS: 211
PARENTS:	2,125	PERSON ALLEGEDLY A/N: 314
FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS:	1,446	OTHER RELATIVES: 2,438
ANONYMOUS/UNKN REPORTERS:	1,128	PERSON ALLEGEDLY RESPONSIBLE
OTHERS:	1,227	FOR A/N: 47
IV. NUMBER OF REPORTS DISPOSED BY DISPOSITION (INVESTIGATION)		
INDICATED:	6,880	NOT INDICATED: 12,363
UNABLE TO COMPLETE:	1,307	
V. NUMBER OF CHILD VICTIMS IN REPORTS DISPOSED BY DISPOSITION		
INDICATED:	9,952	NOT INDICATED: 18,623
UNABLE TO COMPLETE:	1,761	
VI. NUMBER OF REPORTS DISPOSED BY DISPOSITION THAT REMAINED OPEN TO SERVICES		
INDICATED:	2,520	NOT INDICATED: 2,999
UNABLE TO COMPLETE:	250	
DATA ON REPORTS DISPOSED FOR INDICATED DISPOSITIONS ONLY		
VII. AGE OF PERSON ALLEGEDLY A/N:		
<1: 748	4: 527	8: 484 12: 538 16: 335
1: 536	5: 497	9: 522 13: 552 17: 198
2: 527	6: 501	10: 507 14: 639 >17: 24
3: 543	7: 513	11: 454 15: 637 UNK: 670
VIII. SEX OF PERSON ALLEGEDLY A/N: MALE: 4107 FEMALE: 5818 UNKNOWN: 27		
IX. ETHNICITY OF CHILD VICTIM		
HISPANIC/LATINO: 204	NOT HISPANIC/LATINO: 8,999	UNKNOWN: 749
X. RACE OF CHILD VICTIM		
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN: 3,004	WHITE: 5,407	
AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASK NATIVE: 13	ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER: 7	
UNABLE TO DETERMINE: 138	ASIAN: 22	
HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER: 3		
XI. NUMBER OF CHILD VICTIMS BY REMOVAL CODE		
NOT AVAILABLE IN RELEASE I.		
XII. NUMBER OF CHILD VICTIM DEATHS BY A/N/E CODE DESCRIPTION OF DEATH DUE TO		
ABUSE OR A/N/E CODE DESCRIPTION OF DEATH DUE TO NEGLECT (INDICATED)		
DEATH DUE TO ABUSE: 12	DEATH DUE TO NEGLECT: 7	BOTH: 1

XIII. NBR OF VCTMS BY DISP BY CATEGORY	PHYSICAL	SEXUAL	EMOTIONAL	NEGLECT
INDICATED	4,263	2,248	223	3,907
NOT INDICATED	8,552	2,477	699	8,723
UNABLE TO COMPLETE	677	553	44	568

XIV. PERPETRATOR/CHILD VICTIM RELATIONSHIP (INDICATED)		
FOSTER HOME/OTH HSHLD MBR:	4	FMLY DAY/NIGHT CARE: 14
GRANDPARENT:	198	DAY/NIGHT CARE CNTR STAFF: 32
NURSING HOME STAFF:	1	BABY SITTER: 35
FMLY/GRP DAY/NIGHT CARE HM-		PARENTS PARAMOUR: 240
OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBER:	3	STEPARENT: 329
GROUP HOME/INSTN STAFF:	19	OTHER UNRELATED: 1,241
UNKNOWN:	257	NON FINALIZED ADPTV PARNT: 2
OTHER RELATIVE:	482	MOTHER: 2,969
FOSTER PARENT:	17	FATHER: 1,019
SCHOOL STAFF:	18	

STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

WRITTEN REPORT OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

County Name _____
DHR Case No. _____
Date Rec'd by Co. DHR _____ COMPLETED BY DHR

According to Code of Alabama 1975, Section 26-14-1 through 26-14-13, a written report is required. Persons reporting are requested to fill out as much information as is known to them. An explanation of the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law and instructions for completion of this form are on the back of this page.

SECTION I — CHILD VICTIMS

First Name	MI	Last	Sex	Ethnicity	Date of Birth/Age
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

SECTION II — PARENT(S)/CUSTODIANS(Household)

<input type="checkbox"/> Father First Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Step-father MI	<input type="checkbox"/> Custodian Last	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> NA	Ethnicity	Date of Birth/Age	If Custodian, Give Relationship to Victim
<input type="checkbox"/> Mother First Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Step-mother MI	<input type="checkbox"/> Custodian Last	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> NA	Ethnicity	Date of Birth/Age	If Custodian, Give Relationship to Victim
Street Address		City	State	Zip Code	Telephone No.		

Location of child if different from parent's or custodian's address: _____

SECTION III — ALLEGED PERPETRATOR(S)

(1) First Name	MI	Last	Sex	Ethnicity	Date of Birth/Age
Address		City	State	Zip Code	Relationship to Victim
(2) First Name	MI	Last	Sex	Ethnicity	Date of Birth/Age
Address		City	State	Zip Code	Relationship to Victim

SECTION IV — ABUSE/NEGLECT ALLEGATIONS

Description of Allegation(s) of abuse/neglect (Include date of incident, if known, and effects of abuse/neglect upon child(ren)) _____

Did reporter observe the victim(s)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If No, how was reporter made aware of the abuse/neglect? _____

Other person(s) who may have knowledge of the abuse/neglect or family situation:

Name	Address	Telephone No.	Relationship to Victim
(1) _____	_____	_____	_____
(2) _____	_____	_____	_____

SECTION V — OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION

SECTION VI — REPORTER

Did you make a verbal report of these allegations? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, specify to whom in the space below: _____

Signature of Person Reporting	County DHR Police/Sheriff	Date
Title/Agency/Relationship to Victim		Date
Address		Telephone No.

EXPLANATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING LAW
(Code of Alabama 1975, Sections 26-14-1 through 26-14-13)

The purpose of this law is to protect children whose health and welfare may be adversely affected through abuse and neglect, by providing for the reporting of such cases to duly constituted authorities. Certain persons and institutions are required by law to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect under a penalty of a misdemeanor, fine or sentence. Those who are required by law to report are: hospitals, clinics, sanitariums, doctors, physicians, surgeons, medical examiners, coroners, dentists, osteopaths, optometrists, chiropractors, podiatrists, nurses, school teachers and officials, peace officers, law enforcement officials, pharmacists, social workers, day care workers or employees, mental health professionals, or any other person called upon to render aid or medical assistance to a known or suspected victim of child abuse or neglect. Besides those persons who are required by law to report child abuse and neglect, any person may make such report, if such person has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is being abused or neglected.

The law also contains immunity provisions so that any person making a report pursuant to the statute is immune from any civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed.

Instructions for the Written Report of Child Abuse/Neglect

Section I — Victims

Child Victims — List name, sex, ethnicity, birthdate, or approximate age of all child victims who live within the same household as a family. If victims are identified as living in separate households or as a separate family within the same household, a separate report must be completed.

Section II — Parents/Custodians (Household)

Father — List the name, ethnicity, birthdate or approximate age of the child's father or other male caretaker in the household. Indicate the relationship of this person to the child victim. If the child lives with a custodian, give the specific relationship of the custodian to the child victim. Check NA (not applicable) if no male caretaker lives in the child's home.

Mother — List the name, ethnicity, birthdate or approximate age of the child's mother or other female caretaker in the household. Indicate the relationship of this person to the child victim. If the child lives with a custodian, give the specific relationship of the custodian to the child victim. Check NA (not applicable) if no female caretaker lives in the child's home.

Address — List the street address for the household. List the telephone number for the household.

If the child victim(s) is not presently residing in the home of the parent or custodian, list the address where the child may be contacted.

Section III — Alleged Perpetrator(s)

List the name, sex, ethnicity, birthdate or approximate age, and relationship to victim(s) of the person(s) believed to be responsible for the suspected child abuse/neglect.

Section IV — Abuse/Neglect Allegations

Describe specifically how the child was abused or neglected. Describe any physical injury or behavior exhibited by the child which is believed to be a result of suspected abuse/neglect. Give the date of the abusive/neglectful incident, if known.

Provide information on how the reporter was made aware of the suspected abuse/neglect.

List the name, address, telephone number and relationship to victim of anyone who may have knowledge of the abuse/neglect or the victim's family situation. If the child victim was taken to the doctor/hospital for treatment or evaluation, provide the identifying information on the doctor/hospital (assuming that the doctor/hospital is not the reporting source).

Section V — Other Pertinent Information

Space is provided for the reporter to indicate any other information which he/she believes will be helpful in completing the investigation of child abuse/neglect. For example, any emotional or family stress problems, knowledge of prior incidents of child abuse/neglect, name of child victim's school, employment and working hours of parents, other adults or children living in the household, possible physical danger to investigative DHR worker, etc.

Section VI — Reporter

Check whether a verbal report, either by phone or in person, was made on these same allegations to either the local Department of Human Resources or the local law enforcement agency. If a verbal report was given, identify the specific person and name the agency to which the report was made, i.e. County DHR and/or Police, Sheriff. Give the date of the verbal report.

The reporter of the suspected abuse/neglect is requested to sign and date this reporting form. The reporter is requested to provide his address and telephone number, as well as, title, agency or relationship to the victim. It is often helpful during the course of an investigation of child abuse/neglect to clarify information with the reporter. Identifying information on the reporter is confidential and is not released unless so directed by a court order.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE
CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT CENTRAL REGISTRY CLEARANCE REQUEST (DHR-FCS-1598)

Purpose: This form is used to request information from the Child Abuse/Neglect (CA/N) Central Registry for employees or potential employees who will provide unsupervised care and supervision for children or other vulnerable persons.

Instructions: The person/agency/organization requesting the clearance **must** provide an **original** form 1598 (both the original and the copy) with all information completed. Xeroxed copies of 1598s cannot be accepted and will be returned to the person or agency/organization requesting the clearance. The 1598 must be signed and dated (in the appropriate locations) by the person or agency/organization requesting the clearance, the person being cleared, and a witness. Completed 1598s must be submitted within ninety (90) days of the date the form was signed by the person to be cleared.

Forms for persons applying to be foster or adoptive parents through Family Finders; and employees or potential employees of child placing agencies, residential child care facilities, day and night time care centers, and exempt day care centers must submit both copies (white and yellow) of the 1598 to the State Department of Human Resources, Office of Child Protective Services, CA/N Central Registry, 50 Ripley Street, Montgomery, AL 36130. All others should submit the completed 1598 to their County Department of Human Resources.

Complete the 1598 by **printing or typing** all information in black or blue ink. Attach additional pages as needed to provide all requested information.

Requesting Person or Agency/Organization Enter the name of the person, agency, or organization requesting the clearance.

Mailing Address Enter the complete mailing address of the person, agency, or organization requesting the clearance.

Telephone Number Enter the telephone number including area code of the person, agency, or organization requesting the clearance.

PRINT Requestor's Name PRINT the name of the person, agency, or organization requesting the clearance.

Requestor's Signature / Date Signature of the person or the agency's/organization's designee and the date the 1598 is signed.

Witness Signature / Date Signature of the person witnessing the requestor's signature and the date the 1598 is signed.

Check All That Apply Enter "X" in the box that indicates the person/agency/organization requesting the clearance. Persons applying to be certified as a provider of Medicaid Rehabilitation services need to enter "X" in the "Medicaid Rehab Provider – DHR Vendor" box. When none of these categories apply, enter "X" in the "Other" box and specify the nature of the business where the person will provide unsupervised care and / or supervision of children or other vulnerable persons.

Employee / Volunteer / Other Select the appropriate category indicating the relationship of the person being cleared to the requesting entity.

Name And Identifying Information Enter the name, sex, race, date of birth, and current mailing address of the person being cleared.

Alias, Maiden & Prior Married Name(s) Enter all aliases, maiden, and prior married names) for the person being cleared. Enter N/A if not applicable.

Name / DOB of Spouse & Former Spouse(s) Enter the name and date of birth of the spouse and any former spouses of the person being cleared. Enter N/A if not applicable.

Name / DOB of Children / Stepchildren Enter the name and date of birth of all children and any stepchildren of the person being cleared. Enter N/A if not applicable.

Alabama Counties Enter the name of all Alabama counties where the person being cleared has lived and/or worked.

To be completed by person being cleared The person being cleared must sign and date the 1598. A witness must also sign and date the 1598 verifying the signature of the person being cleared.

Submitting Completed 1598s To The Department of Human Resources

A CA/N Central Registry clearance will be conducted by the County or State Department of Human Resources following receipt of an accurately completed, signed, and dated 1598 to determine if the name of the person being cleared is located in the CA/N Central Registry. Documentation of the results of this clearance will be noted in the To be completed by DHR section.

The person/agency/organization making the request is notified that (1) there is a substantiated (i.e., "indicated") report involving the person being cleared; or (2) there is not a substantiated (i.e., "indicated") report involving the person being cleared; or (3) the request was denied and the reason why; or (4) there is an "other" disposition which will be explained. When a substantiated (i.e., indicated) report is located on the person being cleared, information about that report will be provided to the person/agency/organization making the request.

***** **FOR DHR USE ONLY** *****

CA/N Central Registry clearances for the individuals listed below are conducted by the County Department of Human Resources. The completed 1598, in its entirety (**both the original and the copy**), must be submitted to the County Department of Human Resources in which the person being cleared resides.

- Foster family and adoptive home applicants when the county DHR is responsible for approval
- Current or prospective family day care or night time care home providers
- Individuals applying to be Medicaid Rehabilitative Service providers
- JOBS Program participants who are under consideration for a job placement involving the unsupervised care and supervision of children or other vulnerable persons

All other clearance requests (e.g., persons applying through Family Finders to be a foster family or adoptive home) must be submitted to the State Department of Human Resources, Office of Child Protective Services, CA/N Central Registry, 50 Ripley Street, Montgomery, AL 36130.

When the County DHR conducts the clearance, the original completed form must be filed in a master file for all CA/N Central Registry clearances and the yellow copy is filed in the provider applicant's or JOBS participant's case record.

When SDHR conducts the clearance, the yellow copy of the completed 1598 is returned to the person/agency/organization making the request.

Sample ONLY

Original Required

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

CHILD ABUSE / NEGLECT (CA/N) CENTRAL REGISTRY CLEARANCE

PRINT OR TYPE in black or blue ink. Additional information regarding the CA/N Central Registry is on the back of this form.

** See instructions for the address to use when submitting this form. **

Requesting Person or Agency/Organization		Check All That Apply <input type="checkbox"/> Child Placing Agency <input type="checkbox"/> Residential Child Care Facility <input type="checkbox"/> Child Day / Night Care Center <input type="checkbox"/> Family Day / Night Care Home <input type="checkbox"/> Exempt Child Day Care Center <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid Rehab. Provider DHR Vendor <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify)
Mailing Address		
Telephone Number ()		
PRINT Requestor's Name		
Requestor Signature	Date	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid Rehab. Provider DHR Vendor
Witness Signature	Date	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify)

The person whose name and identifying information, printed or typed below, will provide unsupervised care and supervision of children as an ☐ employee ☐ volunteer ☐ other. This person's specific job/role is or will be:

Name _____ Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female Race _____ DOB ____/____/____
Last First Middle

Current Mailing Address _____

Alias, Maiden & Prior Married Name(s) _____

Name & DOB of Spouse & Former Spouse(s) _____

Name & DOB of Children / Stepchildren _____

Alabama counties where person has lived and/or worked _____

Attach additional pages as needed to provide all information requested above.

To be completed by person being cleared

I authorize the Alabama Department of Human Resources to release information contained in the Child Abuse / Neglect Central Registry about me to the above named person/agency/organization. I hereby waive any right to any review or hearing to which I may otherwise be entitled. I further release the Department of Human Resources, its officers, and employees from any and all claims arising out of or in any way connected to the release or dissemination of any information concerning me.

Signature _____ Date _____ Signature of Witness _____ Date _____

To be completed by DHR

A search of the Alabama Child Abuse / Neglect Central Registry has been completed with the information provided to determine if the person identified above has been named as being responsible for child abuse or neglect in Alabama. DHR releases only that information which is necessary to discover or prevent child abuse / neglect.

☐ Substantiated report (i.e., indicated) located. See attached information.

Type Report: ☐ Physical Abuse ☐ Neglect ☐ Sexual Abuse ☐ Mental Abuse / Neglect

☐ No report or no substantiated (i.e., indicated) report located.

☐ Request Denied _____

☐ Other _____

Office of Child Protective Services _____

Date Completed _____

Employers or potential employers may request clearances and receive information on persons who, as employees (paid or volunteer), will provide unsupervised care and /or supervision of children. Licensed child-placing agencies may also receive information on persons applying to adopt or operate a foster family home. Requests for information made by any other private agency or person will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and may require a signed written agreement for information to be shared.

Child Abuse/Neglect (CA/N) Central Registry clearances are conducted using identifying information (e.g., name, age, sex, race) and not unique identifiers (e.g., social security number, fingerprints). Therefore, DHR cannot ensure that the information provided is relative to the person for whom the clearance is requested. This clearance provides information from the CA/N Central Registry only, and DHR can not provide information regarding any criminal charges and or convictions.

Information contained in the CA/N Central Registry is confidential and may be shared only for the purpose of discovering or preventing abuse or neglect. Any other use of this information may constitute a misdemeanor and be punishable by law.

Child care facilities licensed by the Department of Human Resources (DHR) are bound by the confidentiality provision of the Child Care Act, Code of Alabama, 1975, Section 38-7-13.

The use of any information shared by DHR with a governmental agency is bound by the confidentiality provision, Code of Alabama, 1975, Section 38-2-6 (8), under which DHR operates.

**TO REPORT SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT
CALL YOUR LOCAL COUNTY DHR OFFICE OR STATE DHR
AT (334) 242-9500**

TO REQUEST FORMS, CALL YOUR LOCAL COUNTY DHR OFFICE

COUNTY	PHONE NO.	COUNTY	PHONE NO.
Autauga County 203 North Court Street Prattville 36067-3003	334-358-5000	Houston County 1605 Ross Clark Circle, SE (Zip code 36301) P.O. Box 2027 Dothan 36302-2027	334-677-0400
Baldwin County 1705 Highway 31 South P.O. Box 1029 Bay Minette 36507-1029	251-580-2800	Jackson County 205 Liberty Lane Scottsboro 35769-4134	256-574-0300
Barbour County Clayton Industrial Park 276 Highway 239 South P.O. Box 547 Clayton 36016-0547	334-775-2000	Jefferson County 1321 5th Avenue South P.O. Box 11926 Birmingham, AL 35202-1926	205-918-5100
Bibb County 84 Library Street P.O. Box 97 Centreville 35042-0097	205-926-2900	Lamar County 250 Springfield Road P.O. Box 489 Vernon 35592-0489	205-695-5000
Blount County 415 Fifth Avenue East P.O. Box 68 Oneonta 35121-0068	205-274-5200	Lauderdale County 424 Veterans Drive P.O. Box 460 Florence 35631-0460	256-765-4000
Bullock County 201 North Powell Street Union Springs 36089	334-738-2740	Lawrence County 13280 Alabama Highway 157 P.O. Box 278 Moulton 35650-0278	256-905-3100
Butler County 109 Caldwell Street P.O. Box 758 Greenville 36037-0758	334-382-4400	Lee County 2015 Gateway Drive P.O. Box 2425 Opelika 36803-2425	334-737-1100
Calhoun County 801 Noble Street P.O. Box 1869 Anniston 36202-1869	256-231-7500	Limestone County 1007 West Market Street P.O. Box 830 Athens 35612-0830	256-216-6380

COUNTY	PHONE NO	COUNTY	PHONE NO
Chambers County 18047 Highway 431 North P.O. Box 409 LaFayette 36862-0409	334-864-2280	Lowndes County 382 Commerce Street South P.O. Box 36 Hayneville 36040-0036	334-548-3800
Cherokee County 202 Hospital Avenue P.O. Box 27 Centre 35960-0027	256-927-1440	Macon County 404 North Main Street P.O. Box 830210 Tuskegee 36083-0210	334-725-2100
Chilton County 500 Airport Road P.O. Box 1699 Clanton 35046-1699	205-280-2000	Madison County 2206 Oakwood Avenue, NW Huntsville 35810-4499	256-535-4500
Choctaw County 1003 South Mulberry Avenue P.O. Box 687 Butler 36904-0687	205-459-9701	Marengo County 701 South Shiloh Street P.O. Box 480909 Linden 36748-0909	334-295-2000
Clarke County Highway 84 East P.O. Box 219 Grove Hill 36451-0219	251-275-7001	Marion County 1435 Military Street North P.O. Box 96 Hamilton 35570-0096	205-921-6000
Clay County 86930 Highway 9 Lineville 36266 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 940 Ashland 36251-0940	256-396-6800	Marshall County 1925 Gunter Avenue P.O. Box 610 Guntersville 35976-0610	256-582-7100
Cleburne County 732 Oxford Street P.O. Box 25 Heflin 36264-0025	256-463-1700	Mobile County 850 St. Anthony Street P.O. Box 1906 Mobile 36633-1906	251-415-3500
Coffee County 3881 Salem Road P.O. Box 311665 Enterprise 36331-1665	334-348-2000	Monroe County 25 Legion Dr. (Zip code 36460) P.O. Box 1668 Monroeville 36461-1668	251-743-5900
Colbert County Mailing Address: P.O. Box 270 Tuscumbia 35674-0270 Location: 3105 George Wallace Blvd. Muscle Shoals 35661	256-314-4900	Montgomery County 3030 Mobile Highway (Zip code 36108) P.O. Box 250380 Montgomery 36125-0380	334-293-3100
Conecuh County Highway 83 P.O. Box 565 Evergreen 36401-0565	251-578-3900	Morgan County 507 14th Street, SE P.O. Box 964 Decatur 35602-0964	256-340-5840

COUNTY	PHONE NO-	COUNTY	PHONE NO-
Coosa County Fielding Center 300 South Jackson Street P.O. Box 36 Rockford 35136-0036	256-377-2000	Perry County 1609 Highway 5 South P.O. Box 509 Marion 36756-0509	334-683-5500
Covington County 1515 Martin Luther King Jr., Expressway P.O. Box 190 Andalusia 36420-0190	334-427-7900	Pickens County Multi-Service Center Building Courthouse Annex P.O. Box 31 Carrollton 35447-0031	205-367-1500
Crenshaw County 25 Hospital Drive Hwy. 331 South P.O. Box 151 Luverne 36049-0151	334-335-7000	Pike County 717 South Three Notch Street P.O. Box 966 Troy 36081-0966	334-807-6120
Cullman County 210 Fourth Street, SW P.O. Box 990 Cullman 35056-0990	256-737-5300	Randolph County 865 Hill Crest Avenue P.O. Box 209 Wedowee 36278-0209	256-357-3000
Dale County 403 Carroll Avenue P.O. Box 447 Ozark 36361-0447	334-445-4900	Russell County 1003 25th Avenue Phenix City 36869-5349	334-214-5780
Dallas County 200 Samuel O. Moseley Drive P.O. Box 1210 Selma 36702-1210	334-874-1400	Shelby County 987 Highway 70 P.O. Box 1096 Columbiana 35051-1096	205-669-3000
DeKalb County P.O. Box 680049 Fort Payne 35968-1601	256-844-2700	St. Clair County 3105 15th Avenue North Pell City 35125	205-812-2100
Elmore County 73932 Tallassee Highway P.O. Box 787 Wetumpka 36092-0707	334-514-3200	Sumter County 108 West Main Street P.O. Box 310 Livingston 35470-0310	205-652-5000
Escambia County 326 Evergreen Avenue P.O. Box 868 Brewton 36427-0868	251-809-2000	Talladega County P.O. Box 539 Talladega 35161-0539	256-761-6600
Etowah County 741 Forrest Avenue P.O. Box 8445 Gadsden 35902-8445	256-549-4100	Tallapoosa County 353 North Broadnax Street P.O. Box 100 Dadeville 36853-0100	256-825-2755
Fayette County 410 16th Street, NE P.O. Box 489 Fayette 35555-0489	205-932-1665	Tuscaloosa County 3716 12th Avenue East (Zip code 35405) P.O. Box 70100 Tuscaloosa 35407-0100	205-554-1100

COUNTY	PHONE NO-	COUNTY	PHONE NO-
Franklin County 737 Highway 48 P.O. Box M Russellville 35653	256-331-5900	Walker County 1901 Highway 78 East P.O. Box 1772 Jasper 35502-1772	205-387-5400
Geneva County 617 South Commerce Street P.O. Box 385 Geneva 36340-0385	334-684-5800	Washington County 712 St. Stephens Avenue P.O. Box 600 Chatom 36518-0600	251-847-6100
Greene County Highway 43 South P.O. Box 311 Eutaw 35462-0311	205-372-5000	Wilcox County 112 Water Street P.O. Box 430 Camden 36726-0430	334-682-1200
Hale County Hale County Activity Building 906 Wheelan Street P.O. Box 441 Greensboro 36744-0441	334-624-5820	Winston County 991 Highway 33 North P.O. Box 116 Double Springs 35553-0116	205-489-1500
Henry County 507 Kirkland Street P.O. Box 367 Abbeville 36310-0367	334-585-4100		

SESSION # 3
11:15 – 11:30 A.M.

LOCAL ASSISTANCE

HOW TO LOCATE LOCAL CHILD ABUSE REFERRAL AGENCIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

PRESENTED BY:

Alicia Luckie
Deputy Director
Children's Trust Fund of Alabama



STATE OF ALABAMA CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION BOARD

Creation and Authority

The Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board was created by the Legislature in 1983. See the 1975 *Ala. Code* §§ 26-16-1 to 26-16-13.

Purpose

The purpose of the Board is to serve as the State's agency for overseeing and implementing programs for the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Composition

The Board is composed of fourteen members, including (1) the Commissioner of Human Resources; (2) the State Mental Health officer; (3) the State Health officer; (4) the State Superintendent of Education; (5) the Director of Public Safety or his/her designee, and nine public members appointed by the Governor, one from each of the State's seven congressional districts.

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND OF ALABAMA

Creation and Authority

The Children's Trust Fund was established in 1983 by the Alabama Legislature and operates as a state agency. See the *Ala. Code* §§ 26-16-30 to 26-16-33, dealing with the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board, which oversees the Children's Trust Fund.

Purpose

The Children's Trust Fund was created to encourage, promote, and fund programs whose purpose is to prevent child abuse and neglect. Monies placed in the Fund may be expended to provide statewide educational and public informational seminars for the purpose of developing public awareness of problems of child abuse and neglect, to encourage professionals and groups to deal with child abuse and neglect, to make information about child abuse and neglect available, and to encourage development of community prevention programs through matching grants.

The Children's Trust Fund of Alabama currently funds more than 150 agencies who administer 255 Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention programs. The grant process is competitive in nature, and takes place each year with a Request for Proposals issued in April.

While prevention has always been a difficult service to measure, a University of Alabama study indicates that parents who receive parenting education exhibited a fifty percent reduction in child abuse reports. In addition, other studies indicate that for every dollar spent on prevention, six dollars are saved in treatment and other indirect costs to society. These prevention dollars not only mean a reduction in taxpayers expense for treatment, law enforcement and prisons, but more importantly make a major positive difference in the lives of Alabama's children and families.

AGENCY	PROGRAM NAME	ADDRESS	CITY/STATE/ZIP	PROGRAM TYPE	PHONE
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Lake Martin Area	SMART Moves	P.O. Box 1016	Alexander City, AL 350	Non-School-Based/After School	(256)234-8660 ext. 230
Young Life of Alexander City	Young Life of Alexander City	P.O. Box 1202	Alexander City, AL 350	Non-School-Based/After School	(256)234-5017
Acts of Kindness, Inc. - Fatherhood Initiative Self Help	Father Initiating Self Help (F.I.S.H.)	111 Beasley St.	Andalusia, AL 36420	Non-School-Based/After School	(334)222-4542
Community Enabler Developer, Inc.	Conflict Without Violence	1411 Gurnee Avenue	Anniston, AL 36201	Non-School-Based/After School	(256)237-6144
Concern for Children, Inc.	Kids and Company Together For Safety	1227 Noble St.	Anniston, AL 36201	School Based	(256)236-4242
Family Services Center of Calhoun County, Inc.	Parenting Support, Education and Modeling	P.O. Box 2649	Anniston, AL 36201	Parenting Education and Support	(256)231-2240
Coosa Valley Youth Services	Attention Home Parenting Project	P.O. Box 4519	Anniston, AL 36204	Parenting Education and Support	(256)237-2881
Clay Co. Arts League	1. Arts Camp 2003/2 Dance Class 2003	P.O. Box 696	Ashland, AL 36251	Non-School-Based/After School	(256)354-4828
Clay Co. Dept. of Human Resources	The Model Parent	P.O. Box 940	Ashland, AL 36251	Home Visitation	(256)396-6800
St. Clair County Day Program, Inc.	LEAP Project	P.O. Box 1653	Ashville, AL 35953	Non-School-Based/After School	(205)594-2280
Boys & Girls Clubs of Limestone Co.	Passport to Manhood	P.O. Box 1513	Athens, AL 35612	Non-School-Based/After School	(256)232-5545
Boys & Girls Clubs of Limestone Co.	Kids First (3 Club locations)	P.O. Box 1513	Athens, AL 35612	Non-School-Based/After School	(256)232-5545
Boys & Girls Clubs of Limestone County	A.C.E. (After Care Enrichment)	P.O. Box 1513	Athens, AL 35612	Non-School-Based/After School	(256)232-5545
ACES/Auburn University	Healthy Couples, Healthy Children	286 Spidle Hall	Auburn University, AL 368	Parenting Education and Support	(334)844-3234
ACES/Bibb County	B.E.E. Program	310 Sanford Hall	Auburn University, AL 368	Home Visitation	(205)926-3117
ACES/Bibb County	Bibb Co. DADS Program	310 Sanford Hall	Auburn University, AL 368	Parenting Education and Support	(205)926-3117
ACES/Escambia County	Partners for Tomorrow	301 Sanford Hall	Auburn University, AL 368	Home Visitation	(251)867-4686
ACES/Escambia County	Hope Place Career Center	301 Sanford Hall	Auburn University, AL 368	Parenting Education and Support	(251)867-4686
ACES/Escambia County	The Learning Center	310 Sanford Hall	Auburn University, AL 368	Non-School-Based/After School	(251)867-4686
ACES/Tuscaloosa County	B.E.E. Healthy	310 Sanford Hall	Auburn University, AL 368	Parenting Education and Support	(205)349-4630
Alabama Council on Human Relations, Inc.	Fatherhood Program: Men of Courage	319 W. Glenn Avenue	Auburn, AL 36831-0408	Parenting Education and Support	(334)821-8336
Domestic Violence Intervention Center	Child Abuse Prevention Program of East Alabama	P.O. Box 1104	Auburn, AL 36831	School Based	(334)749-1515
Baldwin Youth Services	Parent and Child Training	1203 Phillips St.	Bay Minette, AL 36507	Parenting Education and Support	(251)937-8022
CARE House, Inc.	Solutions	P.O. Box 874	Bay Minette, AL 36507	Non-School-Based/After School	(251)937-2273
Boiz 2 MEN, Incorporated	Boiz 2 MEN	P.O. Box 13322	Birmingham, AL 35202	School Based	(205)866-7945
Gateway	Breaking the Cycle of Violence	1401 South 20th Street	Birmingham, AL 35205	School-Based	(205)510-2673
Planned Parenthood of Alabama/Birmingham	Be A MAN Before A Father	1211 So 27th Place	Birmingham, AL 35205	School Based	(205)322-2121
Family Guidance Center of Alabama	Small Wonders Program	234 Aquarius Dr., Suite 118	Birmingham, AL 35209	Home Visitation	(205)945-6000
IMPACT Family Counseling	Family Court Program	631 Beacon Parkway W., Suite 112	Birmingham, AL 35209	Non-School-Based/After School	(205)916-0123
IMPACT Family Counseling	WRAPAROUND Program	631 Beacon Parkway W., Suite 112	Birmingham, AL 35209	Home Visitation	(205)916-0123
UAB Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime	Birmingham Fatherhood Initiative	401 Beacon Parkway West	Birmingham, AL 35209	Parenting Education and Support	(205)917-3784
United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Birmingham, Inc.	Parenting Skills Project	120 Oslo Circle	Birmingham, AL 35211	Parenting Education and Support	(205)944-3900
JBS St. Clair Mental Health/Mental Retardation Authority	1. Parenting STEP by step/2. Children's Policy Council	940 Montclair Road, Suite 200	Birmingham, AL 35213	1. Parent Education and Support/2. Non-School Based	(205)443-2233
Camp Fire USA Central Alabama Council	I'm Safe and Sure	3600 8th Avenue South, Suite 502	Birmingham, AL 35222	School Based	(205)324-2434
Camp Fire USA Central Alabama Council	Links Up Mentoring Program	3600 8th Avenue South, Suite 502	Birmingham, AL 35222	School-Based	(205)324-2434
Girls Incorporated of Central Alabama	Kid Ability Project	P.O. Box 320269	Birmingham, AL 35232	Parenting Education and Support	(205)595-4475
Prescott House	N.O.P.S. (Group Non-offending Parent Support Group)	1730 14th Avenue South	Birmingham, AL 35255	Parenting Education and Support	(205)930-3622
Center for Urban Missions	S.T.A.R.S.	2030 1ST Avenue North	Birmingham, AL 35203	Non-School-Based/After School	(205)252-8286
YWCA	Children In Crisis Support Group	309 North 23rd Street	Birmingham, AL 35203	School-Based	(205)322-9522
Childcare Resources	Parents As Teachers	1904 First Avenue North	Birmingham, AL 35203-4	Parenting Education and Support	(205)252-1991
Bread and Roses Hospitality, Inc.	Learning To Be a Kid	1135 14th Avenue South	Birmingham, AL 35205	Non-School-Based/After School	(205)324-5220
Glenwood, Inc.	FIRST - Respite Care Program	1401 20th Street South, Suite 200	Birmingham, AL 35205	Respite Care	(205)939-1088
Glenwood, Inc.	FIRST Home Visitation Program	1401 20th Street South, Suite 200	Birmingham, AL 35205	Home Visitation	(205)939-1088
Jefferson County Health Department - Birmingham Healthy Start	BHS Male Involvement Program	3013 - 27th Street North	Birmingham, AL 35207	Parenting Education and Support	(205)324-4133
Better Basics	Family Reading/Parent Education Program	402 Office Park Drive	Birmingham, AL 35223	Parenting Education and Support	(205)870-9994
Glenwood, Inc.	F.A.S.T.	150 Glenwood Lane	Birmingham, AL 35242	Non-School-Based/After School	(205)969-2880
Hand-in-Paw	Pawssive Living	5342 Oporto Madrid Blvd. South	Birmingham, AL 35210	Non-School-Based/After School	(205)591-7006
ACES/Choctaw County	Baby B.E.E.	218 South Hamburg St.	Butler, AL 36904	Home Visitation	(205)459-2133
ACES/Choctaw County	B.E.E.	218 South Hamburg St.	Butler, AL 36904	Home Visitation	(205)459-2133
ACES/Choctaw County	B.e.e.ing Dads	218 South Hamburg St.	Butler, AL 36904	Parenting Education and Support	(205)459-2133
ACES/Wilcox County	B.e.e.ing Dads	12 Water Street, Suite 117	Camden, AL 36726	Parenting Education and Support	(334)682-4289
ACES/Wilcox County	Baby B.E.E.	12 Water Street, Suite 117	Camden, AL 36726	Home Visitation	(334)682-4289
ACES/Wilcox County	B.E.E.	12 Water Street, Suite 117	Camden, AL 36726	Home Visitation	(334)682-4289
BAMA Kids, Inc.	BAMA Kids and Families	P.O. Box 212	Camden, AL 36726	Non-School-Based/After School	(334)682-1214
ACES/Pickens County	B.E.E.	P.O. Box 271	Carrollton, AL 35447	Parenting Education and Support	(205)367-8148
Pickens County Family Resource Center	Supporting The At-Risk Student (STARS)	80 Hospital Drive	Carrollton, AL 35447	Non-School-Based/After School	(205)367-9382
Pickens County Medical Center	Side by Side	P.O. Box 478	Carrollton, AL 35447	Parenting Education and Support	(205)367-8111

Alcoholism/Substance Abuse Council	PANDA Project	102 West Main Street, Room 102	Centre, AL 35960	Non School-Based/After School	(256)927-3111
Children's Advocacy Center of Cherokee Co.	Parent Enhancement	P.O. Box 587	Centre, AL 35960	Parenting Education and Support	(256)927-2111
Children's Advocacy Center of Cherokee Co.	School Based Prevention-Education	P.O. Box 587	Centre, AL 35960	School-Based	(256)927-2111
Friends of the Court, Inc.	Friends of the Court, Inc./CASA of Shelby Co.	P.O. Box 1936	Columbiana, AL 35051	Mentoring	(205)669-4305
ACES/Cullman Co.	First Years Court	402 Arnold St. NE, Suite G-1	Cullman, AL 35055	Home Visitation	(256)737-9386
Cullman Caring for Kids	Cullman School Based Child Abuse Prevention Program	402 Arnold Street NE, Suite W-1	Cullman, AL 35055	School-Based	(256)739-1111
Cullman Caring for Kids	FATHERS	402 Arnold Street NE, Suite W-1	Cullman, AL 35055	Non School-Based/After School	(256)739-1111
Brook's Place/The Child Advocacy Center of Cullman, Inc.	School-Based Making a Difference (MAD)	P.O. 1252	Cullman, AL 35056	School-Based	(256)739-2243
Parents and Children Together	Parents as Teachers (PAT)	P.O. Box 1247	Decatur, AL 35602	Home Visitation	(256)355-7252
Parents and Children Together	Strengthening Families Through Wrap Around Services: Parenting Enhancement/Support	P.O. Box 1247	Decatur, AL 35602	Parent Education and Support	(256)355-7252
Parents and Children Together (PACT)	Healthy Families Morgan County	P.O. Box 1247	Decatur, AL 35602	Home Visitation	(256)355-7252
The Volunteer Center of Morgan County	Friend 2 Friend	1403 Office Park West, Suite G	Decatur, AL 35603	Mentoring	(256)355-8628
City of Decatur Youth Services Department	Father As (STARS)/Someone To Always Respect	P.O. Box 488	Decatur, AL 35602	Parent Education and Support	(256)340-2587
Mental Health Ctr. Of N Central AL	Home Based Intervention Program	4110 Highway 31 South	Decatur, AL 35603	Home Visitation	(256)355-6091
Alfred Saliba Family Services Center	Family Builders	545 West Main Street, Suite 12	Dothan, AL 36301	Home Visitation	(334)794-8310
Alfred Saliba Family Services Center	Children First	545 West Main Street, Suite 12	Dothan, AL 36301	Parenting Education and Support	(334)794-8310
Southeast Alabama Youth Services	You Have a Choice	P.O. Box 1381	Dothan, AL 36302	Non-School Based/After School	(334)983-8377
Southeast Alabama Youth Services	Building Blocks for Emotional Health	P.O. Box 1381	Dothan, AL 36302	School-Based	(334)983-8377
Southeast AL Child Advocacy Center	Parent Enrichment Project	P.O. Box 8781	Dothan, AL 36304	Parenting Education and Support	(334)671-1779
Alfred Saliba Family Services Center	Fatherhood Initiative	545 West Main Street, Suite 12	Dothan, AL 36301	Parenting Education and Support	(334)794-8310
Calhoun County Schools Alternative Education Program	Calhoun County Schools Alternative Education Program	200 Harry Ayers Dr.	Eastaboga, AL 36260	School-Based	(256)241-7901
Family and Child Educational Services	Choosing Success	P.O. Box 310129	Enterprise, AL 36331	Non-School Based/After School	(334)393-7460
Family and Child Educational Services	Parenting	P.O. Box 310129	Enterprise, AL 36331	Parenting Education and Support	(334)393-7460
Family Services Center of Coffee County	Assessment and Referral	P.O. Box 311231	Enterprise, AL 36331-1	Parenting Education and Support	(334)393-8538
Family Services Center of Coffee County	Coffee County Fatherhood Initiative	P.O. Box 311231	Enterprise, AL 36331-1	Parenting Education and Support	(334)393-8538
Family Services Center of Coffee County	Building Blocks and Young Parents	P.O. Box 311231	Enterprise, AL 36331-1	Home Visitation	(334)393-8538
Woman to Woman, Inc.	Parenting Education and Support	P.O. Box 123	Eutaw, AL 35462	Parenting Education and Support	(205)372-0071
Grace House Ministries	Growing in Grace Through Artistic Self-Expression	4923 Farrell Avenue	Fairfield, AL 35064	Non School-Based/After School	(205)786-4663
Baldwin Co. Mental Health Center	Reaching and Encouraging Active Parenting	372 S. Greeno Road	Fairhope, AL 36532	Parenting Education and Support	(251)928-2871
Baldwin County Mental Health Center	Community Mentors	372 S. Greeno Road	Fairhope, AL 36532	Mentoring	(251)928-2871
Fayette County Board of Education	Fayette County Fatherhood Initiative	P.O. Box 686	Fayette, AL 35555	Parenting Education and Support	(205)932-8071
Fayette County Board of Education	GAP - In School	P.O. Box 686	Fayette, AL 35555	School-Based	(205)932-8071
Community Action Agency of NW Alabama	Lauderdale Franklin Colbert Fatherhood Initiative	745 Thompson St.	Florence, AL 35630	Parenting Education and Support	(256)766-4330
Northwest AL Community Health Association	RETHINK	409 N. Court Street, Suite 203	Florence, AL 35630	Parent Education and Support	(256)760-9413
Lauderdale County Board of Education	Parent Partners	P.O. Box 278	Florence, AL 35631	Home Visitation	(256)760-1300
Northwest AL Community Health Association	KELLY BEAR educational series	409 N. Court Street, Suite 203	Florence, AL 35630	School-Based	(256)760-9413
West Way Child Development Center, Inc.	NECAP	409 North Court Street, Suite 219	Florence, AL 35630	Parent Education and Support	(256)760-1122
Boys & Girls Clubs of NW AL, Inc.	The Positive Place for Kids!	216 W. Irvine Avenue	Florence, AL 35631	Non School-Based/After School	(256)766-8220
Colbert/Lauderdale Attention Home, Inc.	Helping Encourage at Risk Teens	115 1/2 East Mobile Plaza	Florence, AL 35631	Non School-Based/After School	(256)767-0972
DeKalb Co. Children's Advocacy Center, Inc.	School Based Prevention	P.O. Box 680173	Fort Payne, AL 35968-1	School-Based	(256)997-9700
DeKalb Co. Children's Advocacy Center, Inc.	Healthy Homes	P.O. Box 680173	Fort Payne, AL 35968-1	Home Visitation	(256)997-9700
DeKalb Co. Children's Advocacy Center, Inc.	School Based Therapy (At-risk students)	P.O. Box 680173	Fort Payne, AL 35968-1	School-Based	(256)582-8457
DeKalb Co. Children's Advocacy Center, Inc.	Parent Project	P.O. Box 680173	Fort Payne, AL 35968-1	Parenting Education and Support	(256)845-8238
Childcare Resource Network	1. Caring Parents 2. Success By Six (Care-a-Van)	P.O. Box 681025	Fort Payne, AL 35968-67	Parenting Education and Support	(256)547-6971
Thirteenth Place, Inc.	P.E.A.C.E.	405 South 12th Street	Gadsden, AL 35901	School-Based	(256)546-5437
Boys & Girls Club of Northeast AL	SMART Moves	P.O. Box 22	Gadsden, AL 35902	Non School-Based/After School	(256)547-5904
Child Advocacy Center of Gadsden-Etowah County	Child Abuse Prevent Program (CAPP)	P.O. Box 8582	Gadsden, AL 35902	School-Based	(256)546-5437
Boys & Girls Club of Northeast AL	Project Learn	P.O. Box 22	Gadsden, AL 35902-00	Non School-Based/After School	(256)546-5079
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Alabama	PALS/Ste-Based Mentoring	P.O. Box 933	Gadsden, AL 35901	Mentoring	(256)547-2581
United Way of Etowah Co./Success by 6	H.O.M.E. (Helping Our Moms Excel)	244 S. 4th Street	Gadsden, AL 35901	Home Visitation	(256)546-9271
Etowah County Community Services Program, Inc.	Project FATHER	P.O. Box 1688	Gadsden, AL 35902	Parenting Education and Support	(256)549-7579
Etowah County Board of Education	SEE Plus	3200 Meighan Blvd.	Gadsden, AL 35904	Parenting Education and Support	(334)684-5632
Geneva County Children's Non-Profit Council	Geneva County Family Resource Center	PO Box 758	Geneva, AL 36340	Parenting Education and Support	(334)624-9100
HERO Family Resource Center	Jump Start Early Learning Center	P.O. Box 318	Greensboro, AL 36744	School-Based	(334)624-9100
HERO Family Resource Center	A.N.G.E.L. (Active Nurturing & Growth Through Early Learning)	P.O. Box 318	Greensboro, AL 36744	Home Visitation	(334)624-9100
HERO Family Resource Center	Fatherhood Initiative	P.O. Box 318	Greensboro, AL 36744	School-Based	(334)382-2665
Butler County Board of Education	LIFT (Linking Infrastructures for Teens)	215 Administrative Dr.	Greenville, AL 36037	Non-School Based/After School	(334)382-2665
Butler County Board of Education	Butler County Education and Community Center	215 Administrative Dr.	Greenville, AL 36037	Parenting Education and Support	(334)382-2665

Child Advocacy Center of Marshall County	SCAN Summer Program	825 Gunter Avenue	Guntersville, AL 35976	Non-School-Based/After School	(256)582-8492
Child Advocacy Center of Marshall County	SCAN School Based	825 Gunter Avenue	Guntersville, AL 35976	School-Based	(256)582-8492
Child Advocacy Center of Marshall County	Family Wellness and Anger Management	825 Gunter Avenue	Guntersville, AL 35976	Parenting Education and Support	(256)582-8492
Marshall Co. R SVP	RSVP Summer Peacemakers	1805 Gunter Avenue	Guntersville, AL 35976	Non-School-Based	(256)571-7734
Marshall Co. R SVP	RSVP Peacemakers	1805 Gunter Avenue	Guntersville, AL 35976	School-Based	(256)571-7734
Tennessee Valley Family Services, Inc.	Family Team Builders	P.O. Box 952	Guntersville, AL 35976	Parenting Education and Support	(256)582-0377
Tennessee Valley Family Services, Inc.	TRIPP	P.O. Box 952	Guntersville, AL 35976	Non-School-Based/After School	(256)582-0377
Visitation Is a Priority (VIP) Program of Marshall County	VIP Program	309 Blount Avenue	Guntersville, AL 35976	Parenting Education and Support	(256)571-9080
Lowndes Co. Public Schools	Project Success/Alternative School	P.O. Box 755	Hayneville, AL 36040	School-Based	(334)563-9869
Children's Aid Society	Teen Parent Program	181 West Valley Avenue, Suite 300	Homewood, AL 35209	Home Visitation	(205)251-7148
Children's Aid Society	Project Dads	181 West Valley Avenue, Suite 300	Homewood, AL 35209	Non-School-Based/After School	(205)251-7148
The Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse of Jefferson County	Parent Aide	3125 Independent Drive	Homewood, AL 35209	Home Visitation	(205)879-4847
The Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse of Jefferson County	Nurturing	3125 Independent Drive	Homewood, AL 35209	Parenting Education and Support	(205)879-4847
Hoover City Schools	The Bridges Program	100 Municipal Dr., Suite 200	Hoover, AL 35216	School-Based	(205)439-1000
Family Services Center, Inc.	Both Parents Supervised Visitation and Monitored Exchange	600 St. Clair Ave., Bldg. #3	Huntsville, AL 35801	Parent Education and Support	(256)551-1610
Family Services Center, Inc.	Families and Schools Together (F.A.S.T.)	600 St. Clair Ave., Bldg. 3	Huntsville, AL 35801	Parent Education and Support	(256)551-1610
National Children Advocacy Center	Stop Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN)	200 Westside Square, Suite 700	Huntsville, AL 35801	School Based	(256)533-0531
National Children Advocacy Center	Healthy Families North Alabama	200 Westside Square, Suite 700	Huntsville, AL 35801	Home Visitation	(256)533-0531
National Children Advocacy Center	Home Visitation Training	200 Westside Square, Suite 700	Huntsville, AL 35801	Home Visitation	(256)533-0531
National Children Advocacy Center	Just For Dads	200 Westside Square, Suite 700	Huntsville, AL 35801	Home Visitation	(256)533-0531
National Children Advocacy Center	Child Abuse & Resource Awareness Training Series	200 Westside Square, Suite 700	Huntsville, AL 35801	Community Awareness	(256)533-0531
Huntsville/Madison Co Mental Health Board, Inc.	The Panda Project	1900 Golf Road, Suite E	Huntsville, AL 35802	Non-School-Based/After School	(256)656-2722
United Cerebral Palsy of Huntsville	H.E.A.R.T.S.	2075 Max Luther Dr.	Huntsville, AL 35810	Respite Care	(256)852-5600
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of North Alabama	The SHARPE Team	3322 South Memorial PKWY., Suite 617	Huntsville, AL 35801	Non-School-Based/After School	(256)880-2123
Girls Incorporated of Huntsville	Teens Loving Children	P.O. Box 3066	Huntsville, AL 35810	Parent Education and Support	(256)850-0011
Jasper Area Family Services Center	Baby Talk	1411 Indiana Avenue	Jasper, AL 35501	Parenting Education and Support	(205)387-0511
Beacon House	BEACON	P.O. Box 852	Jasper, AL 35502	Non-School-Based/After School	(205)384-4539
Walker County Children's Policy Council, Inc.	Parent Project of Walker County	P.O. Box 1603	Jasper, AL 35502	Parenting Education and Support	(205)384-7234
Tri-County Children's Advocacy Center	Mandated Reporter Training Program/Online Safety Initiative	18045 US Highway 431	LaFayette, AL 36862	Community Awareness	(334)864-2303
Marengo County Juvenile Office	Pride Parenting Program	P.O. Box 445	Linden, AL 36748	Parenting Education and Support	(334)295-5541
Health and Wellness Educational Center	Home Improvement Home Visitation Program	P.O. Box 1247	Livingston, AL 35470	Home Visitation	(205)652-6557
Higher Vision 2000, Inc.	AL Fatherhood Initiative Program	P.O. Box 147	Lowndesboro, AL 3675	Home Visitation	(334)872-0700
ACES/Crenshaw County	SCAT CAT (Stop Child Abuse Today, Children Are Tops)	P.O. Box 71	Luverne, AL 36049	Parenting Education and Support	(334)335-6568
Perry County DHR	Perry County Violence Prevention Program	P.O. Box 509	Marion, AL 36756	School-Based	(334)683-5522
United Way of Southwest Alabama, Inc.	MobileCAN-211	218 Francis St.	Mobile, AL 36602	Non-School-Based/After School	(251)433-3624
Dearborn YMCA	C.A.P. (Child Abuse Prevention)	321 N. Warren St.	Mobile, AL 36603	Parenting Education and Support	(251)432-4768
Planned Parenthood of Alabama/Mobile	Be A MAN Before A Father	107 N. Ann Street	Mobile, AL 36604	Non-School-Based/After School	(251)432-3211
GRCHA, Early Childhood Directions	Caring for the Caregiver	601 Bel Air Blvd.	Mobile, AL 36606	Parenting Education and Support	(251)473-1060
CASA Mobile, Inc.	CASA Mobile	900 Western America Circle, Suite 214	Mobile, AL 36609	Parenting Education and Support	(251)344-1442
Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama, Inc. Network Aftercare System	Project FLEX	2315 Costaride St.	Mobile, AL 36617	Home Visitation	(251)471-6186
Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama, Inc./GROWTH	GROWTH's Safe Start	2315 Costaride St.	Mobile, AL 36617	Parenting Education and Support	(251)479-7011
Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama, Inc. GROWTH	GROWTH's Life Skills Component	2315 Costaride St.	Mobile, AL 36617	Non-School-Based/After School	(251)479-7011
Goodwill Easter Seals of the Gulf Coast	Goodwill Easter Seals Respite Program	2448 Gordon Smith Dr.	Mobile, AL 36617	Respite Care	(251)471-1581
Mobile County Health Department	Keeping It Real	P.O. Box 2867	Mobile, AL 36652-2867	Parenting Education and Support	(251)690-8852
Mobile County Health Department	Family Support Program	P.O. Box 2867	Mobile, AL 36652-2867	Home Visitation	(251)690-8852
Mobile County Health Department	Mobile TEEN Center	P.O. Box 2867	Mobile, AL 36652-2867	Parenting Education and Support	(251)690-8852
Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama, Inc.	Project B.O.N.D. (Expansion Phase VI)	P.O. Box 6724	Mobile, AL 36660	Parenting Education and Support	(251)432-1235
Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama, Inc.	Passport to Manhood (Expansion Phase II)	P.O. Box 6724	Mobile, AL 36660	Parenting Education and Support	(251)432-1235
CONTACT Mobile, Inc.	Rape Crisis Center Prevention Education	P.O. Box 66608	Mobile, AL 36660	School-Based	(251)431-5100
Dumas Wesley Community Center	Children-Youth March to Adulthood	P.O. Box 7325	Mobile, AL 36670	Non-School-Based/After School	(251)479-0649
Penelope House Family Violence Center	Prevention Education Program	P.O. Box 9127	Mobile, AL 36691	School-Based	(251)342-2809
Catholic Social Services for FSC	Survival Skills for Youth	P.O. Box 759	Mobile, AL 36601	School-Based	(251)937-7858
Catholic Social Services for FSC	Family Service Center Bay Minette	P.O. Box 759	Mobile, AL 36601	Home Visitation	(251)937-7858
Preschool Center for the Sensory Impaired	Project Possible	1050 Government St.	Mobile, AL 36604	Parenting Education and Support	(251)433-1234
Exchange Club Family Center of Mobile	Parent Aide Program	601 Bel Air Boulevard, Suite 313	Mobile, AL 36606	Home Visitation	(251)479-5700
Exchange Club Family Center of Mobile	Reaching Out	601 Bel Air Boulevard, Suite 313	Mobile, AL 36606	Home Visitation	(251)479-5700
Exchange Club Family Center of Mobile	Parent Network	601 Bel Air Boulevard, Suite 313	Mobile, AL 36606	Community Awareness	(251)479-5700
Exchange Club Family Center of Mobile	Daddy Days	601 Bel Air Boulevard, Suite 313	Mobile, AL 36606	Parenting Education and Support	(251)479-5700

United Cerebral Palsy of Mobile	Parent Project Aware	3058 Dauphin Square Connector	Mobile, AL 36607	Parenting Education and Support	(251) 479-4900
Southwest Alabama Mental Health/Mental Retardation Board, Inc.	Prevention/Intervention Program	P.O. Box 964	Monroeville, AL 36461	School-Based	(251)575-4203
Southwest Alabama Mental Health/Mental Retardation Board, Inc.	Parenting Enhancement Program	P.O. Box 964	Monroeville, AL 36461	Home Visitation	(251)575-4203
Boys & Girls Clubs of Montgomery	SMART Moves/Turkey Reduction	P.O. Box 234	Montgomery, AL 36101	Non-School Based/After School	(334)832-4288
Jubilee Community Center	After School and Summer at Jubilee	P.O. Box 846	Montgomery, AL 36101	Non-School Based/After School	(334)269-4698
The Family Sunshine Center	Primary Prevention Program	P.O. Box 5160	Montgomery, AL 36103	School-Based	(334)266-2100
Center for Families (Family Guidance Ctr. Of AL	Youth Connection	530 South Lawrence	Montgomery, AL 36104	Non-School Based/After School	(334)269-0488
Montgomery Public Schools	Parents As Teachers	2124 Beach St.	Montgomery, AL 36104	Home Visitation	(334)269-3768
The Center for Families (Family Guidance Center of Alabama)	Building Healthy Homes	530 South Lawrence St.	Montgomery, AL 36104	Home Visitation	(334)269-0488
Substance Abuse Youth Networking Organization (SAYNO)	CARE Multi-Community Youth Development Program	492 South Court St., Suite 1	Montgomery, AL 36104	Non-School Based/After School	(334)265-1821
Corporate Foundation for Children	Creative Life Lessons	P.O. Box 11555	Montgomery, AL 36106	Non-School Based/After School	(334)265-7331
Corporate Foundation for Children	Creative Life Lessons	P.O. Box 11555	Montgomery, AL 36106	School-Based	(334)265-7331
Second Chance Foundation	Second Chance Program	810 Cedar Street	Montgomery, AL 36106	Non-School Based/After School	(334)263-9733
Success By 6 (Montgomery YMCA)	Chisolm Prevention Project	P.O. Box 6135	Montgomery, AL 36106	Home Visitation	(334)264-7318
Brantwood Children's Home	Brantwood On-Site Education Program (BOSEP)	1309 Upper Wetumpka Rd	Montgomery, AL 36107	Non-School Based/After School	(334)265-0784
Boys & Girls Clubs of South Central Alabama	P.L.A.Y. WFT Unit	P.O. Box 9104	Montgomery, AL 36108	Parenting Education and Support	(334)262-7727
Boys & Girls Clubs of South Central Alabama	Mentor Me	P.O. Box 9104	Montgomery, AL 36108	Mentoring	(334)262-7727
Boys & Girls Clubs of South Central Alabama WKF	Hooked on Dads, William "Kid" Franklin Unit	P.O. Box 9104	Montgomery, AL 36108	Non-School Based/After School	(334)262-7727
Boys & Girls Clubs of South Central Alabama, Hayneville Unit	Hooked on Dads, Hayneville Unit	P.O. Box 9104	Montgomery, AL 36108	Non-School - Based/After School	(334)262-7727
Boys & Girls Clubs of South Central Alabama, Hayneville Unit	P.L.A.Y. Hayneville Unit	P.O. Box 9104	Montgomery, AL 36108	Parenting Education and Support	(334)262-7727
Family Guidance Center of Alabama, Inc.	Healthy Parenting	1284 Penny Hill Road	Montgomery, AL 36109	Parenting Education and Support	(334)270-4100
Lighthouse Counseling Center	1. Prevention Education Program (K-Elementary only)/2. Lighthouse Ment	1415 East South Blvd.	Montgomery, AL 36116	Mentoring	(334)266-5980
Aid To Innate Mothers	Aid To Innate Mothers	PO Box 986	Montgomery, AL 36101	Parenting Education and Support	(334)262-2245
Prevent Child Abuse Alabama	1. Parenting Group Network/2. Statewide Parent Crisis Line Training	P.O. Box 230904	Montgomery, AL 36123	Parenting Education and Support	(334)271-5105
Montgomery S.T.E.P. Foundation	S.T.E.P. Fatherhood Initiative	P.O. Box 241347	Montgomery, AL 36124	Parenting Education and Support	(334)241-5146
Alabama Department of Public Health	Parents as Teachers-Cherokee Co.	P.O. Box 303017	Montgomery, AL 36130	Home Visitation	(256)927-7000
Lawrence County School System	Reconnecting Youth	14131 Market Street	Montgomery, AL 36130	School-Based	(256)905-2400
Lawrence Co. BOE	Parents as Teachers	14131 Market Street	Moulton, AL 35650	Home Visitation	(256)905-2400
Blount Co. Children's Center	Helping U Get Started	P.O. Box 906	Moulton, AL 35650	Home Visitation	(205)274-7226
Child Care Resource Center, Inc.	Parent/Provider Connection	3766 Pepperell Parkway	Oneonta, AL 35121	Home Visitation	(334)749-8400
East Alabama Mental Health/Mental Retardation Center	The Godparent Project	2300 Center Hills Dr., Building II	Opelika, AL 36801	Home Visitation	(334)742-2112
East Alabama Mental Health/Mental Retardation Center	Special Deliveries	2300 Center Hills Dr., Building II	Opelika, AL 36801	Parenting Education and Support	(334)742-2112
Employers' Child Care Alliance	BRIDGES/Americorps	3766 Pepperell Parkway	Opelika, AL 36801	Home Visitation	(334)749-8400
Greater Peace Community Development Corporation	Greater Peace CDC Fatherhood Development Initiative	650 Jeter Avenue	Opelika, AL 36801	Non-School Based/After School	(334)749-9487
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Lee County	POWER TOOLS	P.O. Box 4047	Opelika, AL 36803	Mentoring	(334)749-4115
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Lee County	Project Empowerment	P.O. Box 4047	Opelika, AL 36803	Non-School Based/After School	(334)749-4115
Lee County School System	Loachapoka School	P.O. Box 120	Opelika, AL 36803	Parenting Education and Support	(334)749-4115
SafeHouse of Shelby County	Caroline E. Jackson CDC Child Abuse Prevention Program	P.O. Box 574	Opelika, AL 36803	Home Visitation	(205)664-5930
St. Clair Children's Advocacy Center	Bear Facts for Families	18200 Al. Hwy 174	Pell City, AL 35125	Parenting Education and Support	(205)338-8847
Russell County Board of Education	Independent Decisions	506 14th Street	Pell City, AL 35125	Home Visitation	(334)298-8791
Teens Empowerment Awareness with Resolutions, Inc. (TEARS)	Respect Responsibility and Rewards	1002 Ingersoll Dr.	Phenix City, AL 36867	Parenting Education and Support	(334)291-6363
Children and Family Connection	Home Visitation/Family Therapy	P.O. Box 2458	Phenix City, AL 36867	School Based	(334)448-1010
Children and Family Connection	Parent Education and Support Program	P.O. Box 2458	Phenix City, AL 36868	Parenting Education and Support	(334)448-1010
Autauga Co. Family Support Ctr.	Family Action Support Team	113 Main Street	Phenix City, AL 36868	Parenting Education and Support	(334)361-4703
DeKalb County Schools Early Intervention Program	Ready, Set, Schools!!	P.O. Box 529	Prattville, AL 36067	Home Visitation	(256)638-8084
Franklin County Schools	All Learning Starts at Home	P.O. Box 610	Rainsville, AL 35986	Parenting Education and Support	(256)331-0005
Marshall-Jackson Mental Retardation Authority	Special Families/Special Needs Program	100-A West Charlotte Avenue	Russellville, AL 35653	Parenting Education and Support	(256)574-1149
Dallas Co. Council on Child Protection	Special Deliveries of Dallas County	P.O. Drawer 1210	Scottsboro, AL 35768	Home Visitation	(334)874-9619
Dallas Co. Council on Child Protection	Volunteers in Child Abuse Prevention	P.O. Drawer 1210	Selma, AL 36702	Home Visitation	(334)874-9619
SABRA Sanctuary, Inc.	Stepping in Time	P.O. Box 393	Selma, AL 36702	School-Based	(334)877-4645
Selma Youth Development Center	Fresh Start Thru Positive Adolescent Choices Training	P.O. Box 2366	Selma, AL 36702	School-Based	(334)877-4645
Shoals Area COARMM, Inc.	Preventing Adolescent Pregnancy	500 South Montgomery Avenue, Suite 138	Sheffield, AL 35660	Non-School Based/After School	(256)383-2938
Sheffield City Schools	Aim High	300 West 6th Street	Sheffield, AL 35660	Mentoring	(256)383-0400
Sylacauga Alliance for Family Enhancement, Inc.	CRIB	P.O. Box 1122	Sylacauga, AL 35150	Home Visitation	(256)245-4343
Sylacauga Alliance for Family Enhancement, Inc.	Tuning Point	P.O. Box 1122	Sylacauga, AL 35150	Parenting Education and Support	(256)245-4343
Sylacauga Alliance for Family Enhancement, Inc.	SAFE Fatherhood Program	P.O. Box 1122	Sylacauga, AL 35150	Parenting Education and Support	(256)245-4343
Talladega Clay Randolph Child Care Corporation	NoBaKi	925 North Street	Talladega, AL 35160	School-Based	(256)362-1390
Talladega Clay Randolph Child Care Corporation	A Child's Haven	925 North Street	Talladega, AL 35160	School-Based	(256)362-3852

Children's Trust Fund of Alabama

2002-2003 CTF Programs

Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind/FIRST Family Service Center	B.A.B.Y. (Building a Better Youth)	P.O. Box 698	Talladega, AL 35161	Home Visitation	(256)761-3640
Talladega City Schools	Parenting with Love and Limits	308 King St.	Talladega, AL 36078	Parenting Education and Support	(334)283-5675
Tarrant Middle School	CATS Program	#1 Wildcat Drive	Tarrant, AL 35217	Non-School Based/After School	(205)849-0168
Tarrant City School System	A Peace-Able Place	1318 Alabama Street	Tarrant, AL 35217	School-Based	(205) 849-3700
Bethel Community Outreach, Inc.	Project B.E.T.H.E.L. (Bringing Education To Help Expelled Learners)	3003 25th Street	Tuscaloosa, AL 35401	Non-School - Based/After School	(205)758-6844
CAPS of Tuscaloosa	Nurturing Program	618 14th St.	Tuscaloosa, AL 35401	Parenting Education and Support	(205)758-1159
CAPS of Tuscaloosa	Safe Child/Second Step	618 14th St.	Tuscaloosa, AL 35401	School Based	(205)758-1159
Child Development Resources	Baby TALK	1500 Greensboro Avenue, Suite 2	Tuscaloosa, AL 35401	Parenting Education and Support	(205)343-2650
TeenMOMS Youth for Christ	The Mentor Program/Teen Moms	P.O. Box 1156	Tuscaloosa, AL 35403	Mentoring	(205)752-3361
Turning Point	Project H.E.A.L. (Health, Education, Awareness, Learning)	P.O. Box 1165	Tuscaloosa, AL 35403	Non-School - Based/After School	(205)758-0808
Visitation Center	Fathers United With Children	P.O. Box 2621	Tuscaloosa, AL 35403	Parenting Education and Support	(205)239-5127
Alabama Blues Project, Inc.	Summertime and After School Blues Camp	2620 2nd Street East	Tuscaloosa, AL 35404	Non-School - Based/After School	(205)551-1795
Tuscaloosa Judicial Volunteer Program	Tuscaloosa Judicial Volunteer Program	6001 12th Avenue East	Tuscaloosa, AL 35405	Non-School - Based/After School	(205)345-4340 ext 242
Youth Emergency Services	Family Weekends	6001 12th Avenue East	Tuscaloosa, AL 35405	Non-School - Based/After School	(205)345-4340 ext 307
Tuscaloosa Family Resource Center	Best Early Start for Toddlers (B.E.S.T.)	P.O. Box 4064	Tuscaloosa, AL 35404	Home Visitation	(205)462-1000
Tuscaloosa Family Resource Center	There's No Place Like Home	P.O. Box 4064	Tuscaloosa, AL 35404	Home Visitation	(205)462-1000
Tuscaloosa Family Resource Center	Ready to Excel in Academic and Life	P.O. Box 4064	Tuscaloosa, AL 35404	Non-School Based/After School	(205)462-1000
Tuskegee Housing Authority	After School Tutorial/Putting Yourself in the Way	2901 Dawson St.	Tuskegee, AL 36083	Non-School Based/After School	(334)727-0459
Tuskegee Housing Authority	PRIDE (Placing Respect In Dad's Eyes)	2901 Dawson St.	Tuskegee, AL 36088	Parenting Education and Support	(334)727-0459
The Circle of Care Center for Families	Stall Builders	P.O. Box 946	Valley, AL 36854	School-Based	(334) 768-4091
The Circle of Care Center for Families	Special Deliveries	P.O. Box 946	Valley, AL 36854	Home Visitation	(334) 768-4091
Montgomery Area Non-Traditional Equestrians (MANE)	MANE	P.O. Box 966	Wetumpka, AL 36093	Non-School Based/After School	(334)567-6655
ACES/Elmore County	First Years Count	340 Queen Ann Road	Wetumpka, AL 36092	Parenting Education and Support	(334)567-6301
Elmore Co. Juvenile Court system	Juvenile Conference Committee	P.O. Box 642	Wetumpka, AL 36092	Non-School Based/After School	(334)567-1151

For More Information on Prevention Resources

Children's Trust Fund of Alabama

100 North Union Street, Suite 350
Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone (334) 242-5710
Fax (334) 242-5711
www.ctf.state.al.us

Childhelp USA

15757 N. 78th St.
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
Hotline: 1-800-4-A-CHILD or
(480) 922-8212
www.childhelpusa.org

Child Welfare League of America

440 First Street NW
Washington, DC 20001-2085
(202) 638-2952
www.cwla.org

Children's Defense Fund

25 "E" Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 628-8787
www.childrensdefense.org

C. Henry Kempe National Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect

1205 Oneida Street
Denver, CO 80220
(303) 321-3963
www.kempecenter.com

Family Support America

20 North Wacker Dr., Suite 1100
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 338-0900
www.familysupportamerica.org

National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse

2950 Tennyson St.
Denver, CO 80212
(303) 433-2541 or 1-877-224-8223
www.childabuse.org

National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect

Administration for Children, Youth, and Families
Office of Human Development Services
330 C St. SW
Washington, DC 20447
(800) FYI-3366
www.calib.com/nccanch

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

Charles B. Wang International Children's Building
699 Prince Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-3175
(703) 274-3900 or
Toll Free: 1-800-THE-LOST
www.missingkids.com

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

P.O. Box 18749
Denver, CO 80218-0749
(303) 839-1852
www.ncadv.org

Prevent Child Abuse America

200 S. Michigan Ave.
17th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604-2404
(312) 663-3520
www.preventchildabuse.org

Parents Anonymous (P.A.)

675 West Foothill Blvd.
Suite 220
Clairemont, CA 91711
(909) 621-6184
www.parentsanonymous.org

The National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC)

210 Pratt Avenue
Huntsville, AL 35801
(256) 533-KIDS (0531)
1-800-4A-CHILD
www.nationalcac.org

The Child Abuse Prevention Network

www.child-abuse.com

SESSION # 4
11:30 A.M. – 12 NOON

THE ALABAMA SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

PRESENTED BY:

Corporal Karl Youngblood
Alabama Department of Public Safety
Alabama Bureau of Investigation



Alabama Department of Public Safety

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Alabama AMBER Plan Child Abduction Alert



This is an Amber Alert -- Taylor Evans -- (click for updates) Was abducted

Introduction

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AMBER Plan Brochure (87 KB, PDF format - [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) required)

Memorandum of Understanding Listing (50 KB, PDF format - [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#)

required) - This file is a listing of law enforcement agencies in the State of Alabama. The ones highlighted in green indicate that a representative from that department has attended an AMBER Alert training session. The ones highlighted in yellow indicate that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed. The ones not highlighted indicates that department has not signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and no one has been trained within their department. We (DPS) are striving to have a 100% involvement, so in the case of an abduction every department will have at their disposal the AMBER Alert encoder asset.

Introduction

The Alabama AMBER Plan is a voluntary partnership between law-enforcement agencies and

broadcasters to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child-abduction cases. AMBER is an acronym for **A**merica's **M**issing **B**roadcast **E**mergency **R**esponse. Every law enforcement agency in the state is invited and encouraged to participate in the program. However, in order to participate in the program, the law enforcement agency will be required to do, at a minimum, the following: a) adopt the criteria established by the AMBER state-wide taskforce; b) adopt formal departmental policies and operating procedures regarding the program; c) identify and designate certain individuals within their respective agencies designate an alert situation; d) participate in training for familiarization and consistent state-wide operation of the program; and e) agree not to activate the system unless all four elements of the criteria are completely satisfied.

Broadcasters use the Emergency Alert System (EAS), formerly called the Emergency Broadcast System, to air a description of the missing child and suspected abductor. This is the same concept used during severe weather emergencies.

Statistics show that in the most serious child abduction cases 74% of the children murdered by non-family members are killed within the first three hours of their abduction. The AMBER Plan focuses on those critical moments immediately after an abduction occurs to immediately disseminate as much useful information as possible to public. This instantly galvanizes the community to assist in the search for the child and the abductor before it is too late.

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History of the AMBER Plan

The AMBER Plan was created in 1996 as a powerful legacy to 9-year-old Amber Hagerman, a bright little girl who was kidnapped and brutally murdered while riding her bicycle in Arlington, Texas. The tragedy shocked and outraged the entire community. Residents contacted radio stations in the Dallas area and suggested they broadcast special "alerts" over the airwaves so that they could help prevent such incidents in the future.



In response to the community's concern for the safety of local children, the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Radio Managers teamed up with local law-enforcement agencies in northern Texas and developed this innovative early warning system to help find abducted children. Statistics show that, when abducted, a child's greatest enemy is time.

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How the AMBER Plan Works

Once law enforcement has been notified about an abducted child, they must first determine if the case meets the AMBER Plan's criteria for triggering an alert.

- Law enforcement confirms a child has been abducted, and
- Law enforcement believes the circumstances surrounding the abduction to indicate that the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death, and
- There is enough descriptive information about the child, abductor, and/or suspect's vehicle to believe an immediate broadcast alert will help.

If these criteria are met, alert information is put together for public distribution. This information can include descriptions and pictures of the missing child, the suspected abductor, a suspected vehicle, and any other information available and valuable to identifying the child and suspect.

The information is then faxed to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) in Montgomery, Alabama. DPS sends the information via the EAS system to all television and radio broadcasters throughout the state. The information is immediately broadcast by participating stations to thousands of listeners.

Radio stations interrupt programming to announce the Alert, and television stations and cable systems run a "crawl" on the screen along with a picture of the child.

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Purpose of the Child Abduction AMBER Alert

- To provide a rapid response to the most serious child abduction cases.
- To gain the assistance of thousands of television viewers and radio listeners throughout the coverage area.
- To coerce the kidnapper to release the child for fear of arrest.
- To deter persons from committing the crime.

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Criteria to be met before the activation of the AMBER Child Abduction Alert

The Alabama AMBER plan will be set in motion for the state by one of the cooperating law enforcement agencies when a child abduction is reported and investigation reveals that:

1. A child has been abducted as defined by 13A-6-40 Alabama Criminal Code, AND;
2. The child is less than 18 years old, AND;
3. The child is at risk of serious bodily harm or death, AND;
- > 4. There is enough descriptive information about the child, abductor, and/or suspect's vehicle to believe an immediate broadcast alert will help investigators locate the child.

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Memorandum of understanding between participating agencies in the Alabama State-Wide AMBER Plan

Click Here - This memo is available for download in PDF format, Adobe Acrobat Reader is required (**free download here**).

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Activating the Alabama AMBER Alert System

Law Enforcement:

After local Law Enforcement confirms that a child has been abducted, the designated person within the investigating agency will call the Department of Public Safety in Montgomery to advise them a fax is forthcoming. DPS will confirm that the criteria has been met for an AMBER Activation and issue an AMBER Alert via the state Emergency Alert System (EAS) using the Child Abduction Emergency (CAE) Code. The following questionnaire may be used to verify that the

criteria for the AMBER Alert have been met.

1. What is the child's age?
 - a. 18 or older, do not activate AMBER Alert
 - b. Under 18, go to question 2.
2. What is the evidence that the child was abducted?
 - a. If abducted, go to question 3.
 - b. If not abducted, do not activate AMBER Alert
3. What is the relationship of the child to the abductor?
 - a. Stranger – Go to question 4.a.
 - b. Family member – go to question 4.b. below:
4. What is the evidence that the child is in danger of serious injury or death?
 - a. Stranger:
 - i. In most stranger abduction cases, the threat of serious injury or death to the victim can be assumed, unless there is compelling evidence to the contrary. Activate the AMBER Alert.
 - b. Family member abduction:

Generally, the AMBER Plan is not to be used for custody type situations. However, if the taking of the child rises the level/definition of an abduction under Alabama law, and there is compelling evidence that the child is in imminent danger of serious physical injury or death by being in the company of this person—then the AMBER Plan may be considered. Some factors for consideration are:

- i. Has the child ever been abused physically or sexually by this person
- ii. Has the abductor threatened the child with bodily harm or death?
- iii. Is the abductor an abuser of alcohol or drugs?
- iv. Was the person under the influence of alcohol or other substance when the child was abducted.

If there is compelling evidence that the child is in immediate danger of serious physical injury or death, activate AMBER Alert.

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AMBER State Plan

Once the determination has been made to activate the State AMBER Alert system, the originating agency shall:

- Broadcast a statewide teletype through ACJIC indicating that a child has been abducted and that an AMBER Alert is forthcoming. Include the agency's telephone number
- Transmit an administrative message, by ACJIC, to the Department of Public Safety in Montgomery to advise them an AMBER Alert fax is forthcoming. (Prepare to answer basic questions concerning the facts of the case to confirm that that criteria has been met.)
- Prepare and fax the information and descriptions regarding the abducted child, the suspect and suspect vehicle to DPS.
- Have personnel assigned to receive incoming telephone calls regarding the alert for 24 hours following an AMBER Alert or until the alert cancelled.
- Supplement the AMBER Alert information by distributing photos of the child to the broadcasters and public via:
 - Email distribution lists to broadcasters
 - Posting the child's photo on an advertised website.
 - Having the Alabama Center for Missing and Exploited Children post the child's photo

on their website. Their email address is acmec@dps.state.al.us and their telephone number is (800) 228-7688.

The reporting law enforcement supervisor is cautioned to ensure that his/her agency is properly staffed to handle a large volume of incoming telephone calls that may result from an AMBER Alert. Additional staffing may also be needed to follow up on the leads received. The telephone number given to the public in the AMBER Alert must be a telephone number (other than 911) capable of handling multiple incoming lines.

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Department of Public Safety (DPS)

Once Law Enforcement has determined that an AMBER Alert should be activated, DPS will activate the state Emergency Alert System using the new Child Abduction Emergency (CAE) code, which is specifically designed for AMBER Alerts. The number of times the alert is broadcast is to be determined by an agreement with the broadcasters. It is suggested that the alert be broadcast at least every 30 minutes for the first 3 hours following an abduction.

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Broadcasters

Each participating broadcaster must insure that their stations EAS unit is programmed to receive and relay a Child Abduction Emergency (CAE) coded message. Information regarding EAS Equipment upgrades can be found at the Alabama Broadcasters Association at 205-979-9981.

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AMBER Alert Cancellation

Once the child is located or the case is closed, the initiating law enforcement agency will notify DPS which will distribute a AMBER Cancellation using the same EAS broadcast system. The AMBER Cancellation should only be broadcast once; any further news coverage of the story is at the discretion of each media outlet. Law Enforcement shall also notify other agencies of the cancellation by sending a statewide teletype advising that the alert has been cancelled.

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Alabama Department of Public Safety - INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN[Mission](#)[Greeting](#)[Kids Only](#)[Teens](#)[Parents](#)[Contact Us](#)

Sponsored by the Alabama Bureau of Investigation



Welcome to the ICAC, Internet Crimes Against Children, web site, here you will find lots of links to cool games for kids, and important information for teens and parents, too!

Simply use the links to the left to navigate around our web site. If you need help, click the "Contact Us" link.

We hope you enjoy your visit, and check back soon to see all the neat stuff we're doing!

SAFE SURFIN'!!



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Web Site



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Sex Offenders

Missing Persons
Missing Children
Missing Adults
Recoveries
About ACMEC
ACMEC Law

Sex Offenders
Search
AG Opinions

Felony Fugitives
View Listing



SEARCH BY: Zip Code [Search](#)

SEARCH BY: Autauga County [Search](#)

CLICK HERE to view a list of Criminal Sex Offenders with no known address.

CLICK HERE to view the complete Community Notification Act (Act 99-572).

Sections 15-20-21 to 37, Code of Alabama 1975, makes it a class C felony for any criminal sex offender to violate most provisions of the Alabama Community Notification Act.

1. No criminal sex offender shall be allowed to establish a residence or accept employment within 2,000 feet of the property on which any public school, private or parochial school, licensed day care center, or any other child care facility.
2. No criminal sex offender shall be allowed to establish a residence or any other living accommodation within 1,000 feet of the property on which of any of his or her former victim(s), or the victims' immediate family members reside.
3. No criminal sex offender shall be allowed to establish a residence or any other living accommodation where a minor resides, except as provided by law.

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Alabama Bureau of Investigation
Wednesday, August 27, 2003

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

12:30 – 1:00 PM

**CLERGY
AND
ALABAMA'S NEW
CHILD ABUSE
REPORTING LAW**

PRESENTED BY:

Bill Pryor
Alabama Attorney General

Alabama's Mandatory Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law

CODE OF ALABAMA TITLE 26. INFANTS AND INCOMPETENTS. CHAPTER 14. REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT.

§ 26-14-1. Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section:

(1) Abuse. Harm or threatened harm to a child's health or welfare. Harm or threatened harm to a child's health or welfare can occur through nonaccidental physical or mental injury, sexual abuse or attempted sexual abuse or sexual exploitation or attempted sexual exploitation. "Sexual abuse" includes the employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of any child to engage in, or having a child assist any other person to engage in any sexually explicit conduct or any simulation of the conduct for the purpose of producing any visual depiction of the conduct; or the rape, molestation, prostitution, or other form of sexual exploitation of children, or incest with children as those acts are defined by Alabama law. "Sexual exploitation" includes allowing, permitting, or encouraging a child to engage in prostitution and allowing, permitting, encouraging or engaging in the obscene or pornographic photographing, filming, or depicting of a child for commercial purposes.

(2) Neglect. Negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child, including the failure to provide adequate food, medical treatment, supervision, clothing, or shelter.

(3) Child. A person under the age of 18 years.

(4) Duly constituted authority. The chief of police of a municipality or municipality and county; or the sheriff, if the observation of child abuse or neglect is made in an unincorporated territory; or the Department of Human Resources; or any person, organization, corporation, group, or agency authorized and designated by the Department of Human Resources to receive reports of child abuse and neglect; provided, that a "duly constituted authority" shall not include an agency involved in

the acts or omissions of the reported child abuse or neglect.

§ 26-14-2. Purpose of chapter.

In order to protect children whose health and welfare may be adversely affected through abuse and neglect, the legislature hereby provides for the reporting of such cases to the appropriate authorities. It is the intent of the legislature that, as a result of such efforts, and through the cooperation of state, county, local agencies and divisions of government, protective services shall be made available in an effort to prevent further abuses and neglect, to safeguard and enforce the general welfare of such children, and to encourage cooperation among the states in dealing with the problems of child abuse.

§ 26-14-3. Mandatory reporting.

(a) All hospitals, clinics, sanitariums, doctors, physicians, surgeons, medical examiners, coroners, dentists, osteopaths, optometrists, chiropractors, podiatrists, nurses, school teachers and officials, peace officers, law enforcement officials, pharmacists, social workers, day care workers or employees, mental health professionals, members of the clergy as defined in Rule 505 of the Alabama Rules of Evidence, or any other person called upon to render aid or medical assistance to any child, when the child is known or suspected to be a victim of child abuse or neglect, shall be required to report, or cause a report to be made of the same, orally, either by telephone or direct communication immediately, followed by a written report, to a duly constituted authority.

(b) When an initial report is made to a law enforcement official, the official subsequently shall inform the Department of Human Resources of the report so that the department can carry out its responsibility to provide protective services when deemed appropriate to the respective child or children.

Alabama's Mandatory Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law

(c) When the Department of Human Resources receives initial reports of suspected abuse or neglect involving discipline or corporal punishment committed in a public or private school or suspected abuse or neglect in a state-operated child residential facility, the Department of Human Resources shall transmit a copy of school reports to the law enforcement agency and residential facility reports to the law enforcement agency and the operating state agency which shall conduct the investigation. When the investigation is completed, a written report of the completed investigation shall contain the information required by the State Department of Human Resources which shall be submitted by the law enforcement agency or the state agency to the county department of human resources for entry into the state's central registry.

(d) Nothing in this chapter shall preclude interagency agreements between departments of human resources, law enforcement, and other state agencies on procedures for investigating reports of suspected child abuse and neglect to provide for departments of human resources to assist law enforcement and other state agencies in these investigations.

(e) Any provision of this section to the contrary notwithstanding, if any agency or authority investigates any report pursuant to this section and the report does not result in a conviction, the agency or authority shall expunge any record of the information or report and any data developed from the record.

(f) Subsection (a) to the contrary notwithstanding, a member of the clergy shall not be required to report information gained solely in a confidential communication privileged pursuant to Rule 505 of the Alabama Rules of Evidence which communication shall continue to be privileged as provided by law.

§ 26-14-5. Contents of reports.

The reports provided for in this chapter shall state, if known, the name of the child, his whereabouts, the names and addresses of the parents, guardian

or caretaker and the character and extent of his injuries. The written report shall also contain, if known, any evidence of previous injuries to said child and any other pertinent information which might establish the cause of such injury or injuries, and the identity of the person or persons responsible for the same.

§ 26-14-6. Temporary protective custody.

A police officer, a law enforcement official or a designated employee of the State or County Department of Human Resources may take a child into protective custody, or any person in charge of a hospital or similar institution or any physician treating a child may keep that child in his custody, without the consent of the parent or guardian, whether or not additional medical treatment is required, if the circumstances or conditions of the child are such that continuing in his place of residence or in the care and custody of the parent, guardian, custodian or other person responsible for the child's care presents an imminent danger to that child's life or health. However, such official shall immediately notify the court having jurisdiction over juveniles of such actions in taking the child into protective custody; provided, that such custody shall not exceed 72 hours and that a court of competent jurisdiction and the Department of Human Resources shall be notified immediately in order that child-protective proceedings may be initiated. During such period of temporary custody, the director of the county department of human resources may give or cause to be given effective consent for medical, dental, health and hospital services for any abused or neglected child.

§ 26-14-6.1. Duties and responsibilities for investigation of reports.

The duty and responsibility for the investigation of reports of suspected child abuse or neglect shall be as follows:

(1) Reports of suspected child abuse or neglect involving disciplinary or corporal punishment committed in a public or private school or

Alabama's Mandatory Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law

kindergarten shall be investigated by law enforcement agencies.

(2) Reports of suspected child abuse or neglect committed in a state-operated child residential facility shall be investigated by law enforcement agencies.

(3) All other reports of suspected child abuse and neglect shall be investigated by the Department of Human Resources.

§ 26-14-7. Duties of Department of Human Resources.

(a) The State or County Department of Human Resources shall make a thorough investigation promptly upon either the oral or written report. The primary purpose of such an investigation shall be the protection of the child.

(b) The investigation, to the extent that is reasonably possible, shall include:

(1) The nature, extent and cause of the child abuse or neglect;

(2) The identity of the person responsible therefor;

(3) The names and conditions of other children in the home;

(4) An evaluation of the parents or person responsible for the care of the child;

(5) The home environment and the relationship of the child or children to the parents or other persons responsible for their care; and

(6) All other data deemed pertinent.

(c) The investigation may include a visit to the child's home, an interview with the subject child, and may include a physical, psychological or psychiatric examination of any child or children in that home. If the admission to the home, school or any other place that the child may be, or permission of the parent or other persons responsible for the child or children, for the physical, psychological or psychiatric examination, cannot be obtained, then a court of competent jurisdiction, upon cause shown, shall order the parents or persons responsible and in charge of any place where the child may be to allow the interview, examinations and investigation. If,

before the examination is complete, the opinion of the investigators is that immediate removal is necessary to protect a child or children from further abuse or neglect, a court of competent jurisdiction, on petition by the investigators and with good cause being shown, shall issue an order for temporary removal and custody.

(d) The county department of human resources shall make a complete written report of the investigation, together with its recommendations. Such reports may be made available to the appropriate court, the district attorney and the appropriate law enforcement agency upon request. The county department of human resources shall make a written report or case summary, together with services offered and accepted to the state's central registry on forms supplied by the registry for that purpose.

§ 26-14-7.1. Due process rights for persons under investigation by department.

Any person who comes under investigation by the Department of Human Resources for the abuse or neglect of a child or children and who is employed by, serves as a volunteer for, holds a license or certificate for, or is connected with any facility, agency, or home which cares for and controls any children and which is licensed, approved, or certified by the state, operated as a state facility, or any public, private, or religious facility or agency that may be exempt from licensing procedures shall be granted the following due process rights by the Department of Human Resources:

(1) The department shall notify the alleged perpetrator that an investigation has commenced against him after such investigation has officially begun in accordance with written policies established by the Department of Human Resources. The notice shall be in writing and shall state the name of the child or children allegedly abused, the date or dates that the alleged abuse is thought to have occurred, and the substance of the person's actions which are alleged to be abusive. The department shall establish and maintain written policies outlining the specifics of such

Alabama's Mandatory Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law

notification and other policies deemed necessary and prudent by the department to inform the alleged perpetrator of his rights and the procedures utilized by the department involving child abuse and neglect investigations.

(2) If the department conducts an investigation relating to child abuse/neglect, the alleged perpetrator shall be notified of the investigator's conclusions.

(3) If the department's investigators conclude that child abuse/neglect is indicated, an investigative hearing may be held to confirm or reject the investigators' conclusions.

(4) The alleged perpetrator shall be given ten departmental working days from the receipt of the notification of the investigator's conclusions to request a hearing, and such request must be in writing. If no such request is received in the department's office within ten departmental working days, the alleged perpetrator's opportunity for a hearing shall be considered waived by the department.

(5) The employer of an alleged perpetrator shall not be notified of the investigator's conclusions prior to a hearing or its waiver unless, in the opinion of the department's investigators, a child is in danger of abuse or neglect; in such case, any person in a position to discover, prevent or protect the child from his abuse or neglect may be informed of information gathered in the investigation prior to a requested investigative hearing for the alleged perpetrator.

(6) The alleged perpetrator shall be notified of the date, time, and place of any investigative hearing. Such hearing shall not be open to the public.

(7) The alleged perpetrator shall have the following rights at any departmental investigative hearing:

- a. The right to present his case himself or be represented by legal counsel or any other person.
- b. The right to present written evidence, oral testimony, and witnesses.
- c. The right to be provided by the department a short and plain written statement of the matters asserted which will be presented at the hearing.

d. The right to review and copy at cost any written or recorded statement made by the alleged perpetrator to departmental personnel in the course of the child abuse/neglect investigation. This request must be made prior to the date for the hearing.

e. The right to review and copy at cost, before or during the hearing, the written material and other evidence in possession of the department which will be placed into evidence at the hearing.

f. The right to inspect any exculpatory evidence which may be in the possession of departmental investigators, and the right to be informed of such evidence if known by departmental investigators before the hearing; provided, that a request for such evidence is made at least five working days prior to the date set for the hearing.

g. The right to review and copy at cost all non-confidential department documents pertinent to the case, including written policies and rights.

h. The right to cross-examine witnesses testifying at the hearing.

i. The right to request issuance of subpoenas to witnesses and compel attendance. This request must be received no later than ten calendar days prior to the hearing, unless a shorter time is agreed upon by the hearing officer.

j. The right to review and copy at cost all documents in the official hearing file maintained by the hearing officer.

k. The right to have a hearing officer appointed who shall be disinterested, fair, and impartial.

(8) The Department of Human Resources or its investigative hearing officers shall have the power and authority to issue subpoenas to compel attendance by and production of documents from any witness. Subpoenas may be served in the same manner as subpoenas issued out of any circuit court. Where any witness has been summoned by the Department of Human Resources, its commissioner or any of his agents, and said witness refuses to appear, testify, or produce records or documents as requested; then any circuit court in this state, or any judge thereof, on application, may issue an attachment for such

Alabama's Mandatory Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law

person and compel him to comply with such order and the court or judge shall have power to punish for contempt in cases of disobedience of such order.

(9) The Department of Human Resources shall establish policies and written guidelines for the conduct and procedures involved in an investigative hearing. At such hearing, the fact that there was a finding by a juvenile court judge or by a criminal court that child abuse or neglect has occurred shall be presumptive evidence that the report should be marked indicated.

(10) The hearing officer shall notify the alleged perpetrator in writing of the hearing officer's decision.

(11) Results of investigative hearings:

a. If the hearing officer concludes that child abuse and/or neglect is "indicated," such findings and evidence shall be filed with the appropriate district attorney and other law enforcement officials which the department may deem necessary.

b. The alleged perpetrator's employer or licensing/certifying agency or group may also be notified of the "indicated" findings. Such notification shall be marked "Confidential" and "To Be Used Only For The Purpose Of Discovery Or Preventing Child Abuse." The department shall establish written policies for notification of employers, prospective employers and licensing/certifying agencies or groups.

§ 26-14-7.2. Child denied medical treatment due to parents' religious beliefs.

(a) When an investigation of child abuse or neglect by the Department of Human Resources determines that a parent or legal guardian legitimately practicing his or her religious beliefs has not provided specific medical treatment for a child, the parent or legal guardian shall not be considered a negligent parent or guardian for that reason alone. This exception shall not preclude a court from ordering that medical services be provided to the child when the child's health requires it.

(b) The department may, in any case, pursue any legal remedies, including the initiation of legal proceedings in a court of competent jurisdiction, as may be necessary to provide medical care or treatment for a child when the care or treatment is necessary to prevent or remedy serious harm to the child, or to prevent the withholding of medically indicated treatments from disabled infants with life-threatening conditions. Upon application by the department, the court may issue prelitigation or pretrial discovery orders for persons, medical records, and other documents or materials.

§ 26-14-8. Statewide central registry.

(a) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall have the following meanings, respectively:

(1) Indicated. When credible evidence and professional judgment substantiates that an alleged perpetrator is responsible for child abuse or neglect.

(2) Not indicated. When credible evidence and professional judgment does not substantiate that an alleged perpetrator is responsible for child abuse or neglect.

(b) The Department of Human Resources shall establish a statewide central registry for reports of child abuse and neglect made pursuant to this chapter. The central registry shall contain, but shall not be limited to:

(1) All information in the written report;

(2) Record of the final disposition of the report, including services offered and services accepted;

(3) The names and identifying data, dates and circumstances of any persons requesting or receiving information from the registry; provided, however, that requests for information and responses where no report exists may be destroyed after three years from the date of the request;

(4) The plan for rehabilitative treatment; and

(5) Any other information which might be helpful in furthering the purposes of this chapter.

(c) The Department of Human Resources shall establish and enforce reasonable rules and regulations governing the custody, use and

Alabama's Mandatory Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law

preservation of the reports and records of child abuse and neglect. Child abuse and neglect reports and records shall be limited to the purposes for which they are furnished and by the provisions of law under which they may be furnished. The reports and records of child abuse and neglect and related information or testimony shall be confidential, and shall not be used or disclosed for any purposes other than:

(1) To permit their use to prevent or to discover abuse or neglect of children through the information contained therein, except reports or records in cases determined to be "not indicated" shall not be used or disclosed for purposes of employment or other background checks; or

(2) For investigation of child abuse or neglect by the police or other law enforcement agency; or

(3) For use by a grand jury upon its determination that access to such reports and records is necessary in the conduct of its official business; or

(4) For use by a court where it finds that such information is necessary for the determination of an issue before the court; or

(5) For use by any person engaged in bona fide research who is authorized to have access to such information by the Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources; or

(6) For use by any person authorized by a court to act as a representative for an abused or neglected child who is the subject of a report; or

(7) For use by a physician who has before him a child whom he reasonably suspects may be abused or neglected; or

(8) For use by an attorney or guardian ad litem in representing or defending a child or its parents or guardians in a court proceeding related to abuse or neglect of said child; or

(9) For use by federal, state, or local governmental entities, social service agencies of another state, or any agent of such entities, having a need for the information in order to carry out their responsibilities under law to protect children from abuse and neglect; or

(10) For use by child abuse citizen review or quality assurance or multidisciplinary review panels; or

(11) For use by child fatality review panels; or

(12) For public disclosure of the findings or information about the case of child abuse or neglect which has resulted in a child fatality or near fatality; the term "near fatality" means an act that, as certified by a physician, places the child in serious or critical condition. Information identifying by name persons other than the victim shall not be disclosed.

(d) The names of persons or information in the investigative report placed on the state's central registry which may be made available to the alleged perpetrator's employer, prospective employer, or others are those cases that the Department of Human Resources or the investigative hearing officer has determined child abuse or neglect to be indicated.

(e) In the case of any child abuse or neglect investigation which is determined to be "not indicated," the alleged perpetrator may request after five years from the completion of the investigation that his or her name be expunged from the central registry so long as the Department of Human Resources has received no further reports concerning the alleged perpetrator during said five years, at which time the department shall expunge said name.

(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed as restricting the ability of a department to refuse to disclose identifying information concerning the individual initiating a report or complaint alleging suspected instances of child abuse or neglect, except that the department may not refuse such a disclosure in cases in which a court orders such disclosure after the court has reviewed, in camera, the record of the department related to the report or complaint and has determined that it has reason to believe that the person making the report knowingly made a false report.

(g) Any person receiving reports or records of child abuse or neglect or related information under this section shall maintain the confidentiality of the documents and information and not disclose it except as authorized by law.

(h) Any violation of the provision of confidentiality shall be a Class A misdemeanor.

§ 26-14-9. Immunity from liability for actions under chapter.

Any person, firm, corporation or official, including members of a multidisciplinary child protection team, quality assurance team, child death review team, or other authorized case review team or panel, by whatever designation, participating in the making of a good faith report in an investigation or case review authorized under this chapter or other law or department practice or in the removal of a child pursuant to this chapter, or participating in a judicial proceeding resulting therefrom, shall, in so doing, be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed.

§ 26-14-10. Doctrine of privileged communications not grounds for exclusion of evidence as to child's injuries.

The doctrine of privileged communication, with the exception of the attorney-client privilege, shall not be a ground for excluding any evidence regarding a child's injuries or the cause thereof in any judicial proceeding resulting from a report pursuant to this chapter.

§ 26-14-11. Appointment of attorney to represent child.

In every case involving an abused or neglected child which results in a judicial proceeding, an attorney shall be appointed to represent the child in such proceedings. Such attorney will represent the rights, interests, welfare and well-being of the child, and serve as guardian ad litem for said child.

§ 26-14-12. Establishment of regulations by department of human resources.

The State Department of Human Resources may establish such regulations as may be necessary to implement this chapter and to encourage cooperation with other states in exchanging reports to effect a national registration system.

§ 26-14-13. Penalty for failure to make required report.

Any person who shall knowingly fail to make the report required by this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a sentence of not more than six months' imprisonment or a fine of not more than \$500.00.

ALABAMA RULES OF EVIDENCE

Rule 505. - Communications to clergymen.

(a) **Definitions.** As used in this rule:

(1) A "clergyman" is any duly ordained, licensed, or commissioned minister, pastor, priest, rabbi, or practitioner of any bona fide established church or religious organization; the term "clergyman" includes, and is limited to, any person who regularly, as a vocation, devotes a substantial portion of his or her time and abilities to the service of his or her church or religious organization.

(2) A communication is "confidential" if it is made privately and is not intended for further disclosure except to other persons present in furtherance of the purpose of the communication.

(b) **General rule of privilege.** If any person shall communicate with a clergyman in the clergyman's professional capacity and in a confidential manner, then that person or the clergyman shall have a privilege to refuse to disclose, and to prevent another from disclosing, that confidential communication.

(c) **Who may claim the privilege.** The privilege may be claimed by the communicating person, by that person's guardian or conservator, or by that person's personal representative if that person has died, or by the clergyman.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S NOTES

Rule 505 tracks, but supersedes, a preexisting statute creating a clergyman privilege in Alabama. Ala. Code 1975, § 12-21-166. See C. Gamble, McElroy's Alabama Evidence § 419.01 (4th ed. 1991). Additionally, some provisions are taken from Unif. R. Evid. 505 and Fed. R. Evid. 506 (not enacted). The development of a clergyman privilege, prior to the broad adoption of evidence rules, had occurred in about two-thirds of the states and the privilege had been adopted in those states by both statute and case law. See 8 J. Wigmore, Wigmore on Evidence § 2395 (McNaughton rev. 1961). Sub (a)(1). Definition of "clergyman." This definition of "clergyman" is necessarily a broad one. It is not sufficiently broad, however, to include "all self-denominated "ministers." Fed. R. Evid. 506 (not enacted) advisory committee's note. The terms "ordained," "licensed," and "commissioned" focus upon the rules of the particular church or religious organization that govern entrance into the ministry. A good explanation of the term "bona fide established church or religious organization" can be found in the following passage taken from the advisory notes to the proposed, but rejected, Federal Rule of Evidence 506:

"A fair construction of the language requires that the person to whom the status is sought to be attached be regularly engaged in activities conforming at least in a general way with those of a Catholic priest, Jewish rabbi, or minister of an established Protestant denomination, though not necessarily on a full-time basis."

Like the statutory privilege it supersedes, the Rule 505 privilege does not attach when the person consulted is not in fact a clergyman, even if the person consulting reasonably believes that person to be a clergyman. This principle is consistent with the corresponding principle found in the psychologist-patient privilege. See Ala. R. Evid. 503(a)(2)(B).

Subsection (a)(2). Definition of "confidential." The definition of this term is consistent with its use in the attorney-client privilege. See Ala. R. Evid. 502(a)(5). Whether a communication is "confidential" is largely determined by deciding whether the communicating person intended to create a confidential communication, i.e., one not to be communicated to unnecessary third parties. The communication must have been made with the express or implied understanding that it should not be revealed to another. *Lucy v. State*, 443 So. 2d 1335 (Ala. Crim. App. 1983). The presence of third parties whose presence is not necessary to the making of the communication indicates a lack of intent to communicate confidentially. The presence of a third party, however, does not destroy confidentiality if that third person is present to further the communication. No comparable provision exists in the preexisting statute creating Alabama's clergyman privilege. Ala. Code 1975, § 12-21-166(b).

Section (b). General rule of privilege. The privilege arises only when the person communicates with a clergyman in the latter's professional capacity. A similar limitation is placed upon the attorney-client privilege when the client consults a lawyer for some purpose other than to secure legal advice. See Ala. R. Evid. 502(a)(1) advisory committee's notes. Communications to the clergyman in furtherance of a crime or a fraud would not qualify as seeking spiritual advice and therefore would not fall within the protection of the privilege. Compare Fed. R. Evid. 506(b) (not enacted) advisory committee's note.

The statutory language providing Alabama's preexisting clergyman privilege appears to limit the privilege to consultations with a clergyman that are either confessional or marital in nature. The committee thinks the role of the

clergyman in modern society is much broader. Consequently, the committee proposed the language of Rule 505, in lieu of that found in the preexisting statute, so as to render the privilege applicable to all conferences where the clergyman is consulted in the professional capacity of spiritual advisor in the broadest sense.

The preexisting statute, upon which Rule 505 is based, protected "anything said by either party during such communication." The phrase "confidential communication" is adopted in lieu of this language, but with the same broad coverage. Additionally, it is intended that the principle of Alabama's preexisting case law will continue insofar as it takes an expansive view of "communication," so that it may include statements made, acts that are synonymous with statements, and, in some instances, noncommunicative acts. See Ala. R. Evid. 504(b); *Arnold v. State*, 353 So. 2d 524 (Ala. 1977).

As with the corresponding rule in the attorney-client privilege, any person privy to the communication may be prevented from relating what was said, so long as the communication otherwise qualifies as a confidential, clergyman communication. Compare Ala. R. Evid. 502(b). This necessarily abrogates the common law "eavesdropper rule," under which one who overheard an otherwise confidential communication -- whether by eavesdropping or by accident -- could relate what was overheard even if it was an otherwise fully privileged communication. *Howton v. State*, 391 So. 2d 147 (Ala. Crim. App. 1980). It should be noted that this abrogation of the eavesdropper rule goes beyond the preexisting, but now superseded, statutory privilege. The statute provided that the penitent or priest was privileged to preclude only "the other from disclosing." Ala. Code 1975, § 12-21-166(b).

Section (c). Who may claim the privilege. As under the preexisting statute, the privilege belongs to, and may be asserted by, both the communicant and the clergyman. See Ala. Code 1975, § 12-21-166(b). In the majority of jurisdictions, in contrast, the clergyman may not assert the privilege in his or her own right. *De'udy v. De'udy*, 130 Misc. 168, 495 N.Y.S.2d 616 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. 1985) (refusing to allow clergyman to assert the privilege, after waiver by communicant, but recognizing that some state statutes grant an independent privilege to the clergyman). Cf. E. Cleary, McCormick on Evidence § 73.1 (3d ed. 1984) (commenting that, in regard to privileges generally, persons other than the communicant may bring the existence of the privilege to the court's attention but that normally this is regarded as having been done in behalf of the communicant or holder of the privilege).

The committee envisions that under Rule 505, as under the preexisting statute, the assertion of this privilege will be recognized broadly in a variety of trials, hearings, and proceedings of both a legal and a quasi-legal nature, including proceedings before an administrative agency of the state or a political subdivision thereof. See Ala. Code 1975, § 12-21-166(a)(2). The committee deemed it unnecessary to include an express provision to that effect in Rule 505, because all privileges are applicable in all proceedings. Ala. R. Evid. 1101(c).

CASENOTES

1. Generally

Threats of violence toward third parties that are revealed to clergy are not covered by the "communications to clergyman privilege" and clergy may testify as to those threats in subsequent proceedings. *Tankersley v. State*, 724 So.2d 557 (Ala.Crim.App.1998), rehearing denied, certiorari denied

Other States' Requirements for Child Abuse Reporting¹

States Specifically Requiring Clergy to Report (*or including clergy in "all persons" required to report):

1. Alabama
2. Arizona
3. Arkansas
4. California
5. Colorado
6. Connecticut
7. Delaware*
8. Florida*
9. Idaho*
10. Illinois
11. Indiana*
12. Kentucky*
13. Maine
14. Maryland*
15. Massachusetts
16. Minnesota
17. Mississippi
18. Missouri
19. Montana
20. Nebraska*
21. Nevada
22. New Hampshire
23. New Jersey*
24. New Mexico*
25. North Carolina*
26. North Dakota
27. Ohio
28. Oklahoma*
29. Oregon
30. Pennsylvania
31. Rhode Island*
32. South Carolina
33. South Dakota
34. Tennessee*

35. Texas*
36. Utah*
37. Vermont
38. West Virginia
39. Wyoming*

States which do not require clergy to report (or include clergy in list of "all persons" obligated to report)

1. Georgia
2. Kansas
3. Louisiana
4. Michigan
5. New York

States Considering Reporting Laws

1. Alaska
2. Hawaii
3. Iowa
4. Virginia
5. Washington
6. Wisconsin

¹ Current as of 8/26/03. Sources: National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information (US Dept of Health and Human Services) online reports; www.stateline.org reports; Child Abuse Reporting and Evaluation Center statistics.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS:

Thomas M. Eden, III joined Wallace, Jordan, Ratliff & Brandt, L.L.C. as a member in September 1996. A native of Auburn, Alabama, Eden was born in 1953, and graduated from Auburn University in 1976. He then attended Cumberland School of Law, Samford University, where he graduated in 1980 cum laude. After graduation, Eden worked in Atlanta, Georgia, with the management labor law firm of Constangy, Brooks & Smith, and subsequently joined the Birmingham firm of Spain and Gillon in 1983, where he continued his management labor and employment law practice. Also, while at Spain and Gillon, Eden defended a number of insurance companies in substantial fraud and bad-faith litigation. Eden's law practice has been principally in the areas of preventative management labor relations and counseling of employers in the resolution of employment disputes; defense of employers in federal court in all aspects of employment litigation including claims under Title VII, ADA, FMLA, FLSA, ADEA, and retaliatory discharge actions; defense of employers in charges brought with the EEOC, Wage and Hour Division, National Labor Relations Board, and the Department of Labor; litigation over employee benefits under ERISA; and formulation of drug-free workplace policies and workplace violence prevention programs. He is admitted to practice in all state and federal trial courts in Alabama as well the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, the Supreme Court of Alabama, and the United States Supreme Court. Eden is a member of the American Bar Association, American Employment Law Council (Charter Member), EEO Committee of the Labor and Employment Section of the Alabama Bar Association, Birmingham Bar Association, and the Labor and Employment Committee of the Georgia Bar Association.

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James E. Long is an Assistant Attorney General and general in-house counsel with the Alabama Department of Human Resources. Long received law degree from the University of Alabama School of Law in 1979, and served as a staff attorney and Senior staff attorney at Legal Services Corporation of Alabama from 1979 until 1983. In 1983, Long joined the ADHR legal staff, and his areas of specialization at ADHR are child welfare, adult services, licensing and federal benefits programs, including TANF and Food Stamps). Long also provides speaks on the behalf of ADHR on issues for child care providers and licensing workers, and issues for child welfare and adult services workers.

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Marian Loftin is the Executive Director of the Children's Trust Fund of Alabama. The Children's Trust Fund is the state agency charged with funding programs that prevent child abuse and neglect. She has been an active child and family advocate since her days as an elementary classroom teacher. Although Mrs. Loftin works in Montgomery during the week, she is proud to say that her home is in Dothan and Houston County. She is past executive director of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce and prior to that she worked with the University of Alabama for 15 years as assistant director of Governmental Affairs. A long-time community volunteer, Mrs. Loftin is most proud of her service on the capital boards of the Alfred Saliba Family Services Center, the Southeast Alabama child advocacy center, the Houston County Juvenile Court Advisory, and the Southeast Alabama Youth Services. Marian and her husband Jim have lived in Dothan for 35 years. They have four children and five (perfect) grandchildren.

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Bill Pryor took office as Attorney General of Alabama on January 2, 1997. He was appointed by Governor Fob James to complete the term of Jeff Sessions who was elected to the United States Senate. At the time, Pryor was the youngest Attorney General in the United States. On November 3, 1998, Pryor was elected to a full four-year term. On November 5, 2002, he was reelected, with 59 percent of the votes (the highest percentage of all statewide candidates), to a final term as Attorney General. A native of Mobile, Pryor graduated magna cum laude in 1987 from Tulane University School of Law, where he was editor in chief of the Tulane Law Review. He began his legal career as a law clerk for the late Judge John Minor Wisdom of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit. Afterwards, Pryor engaged in the private practice of law in Birmingham in two of the state's finest law firms, specializing in commercial and employment litigation from 1988 until 1995. Pryor also taught as an adjunct professor at the Cumberland School of Law of Samford University from 1989 to 1995. During the tenure of Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Pryor served as Deputy Attorney General in charge of special civil and constitutional litigation. An experienced courtroom lawyer, Attorney General Pryor has tried civil and criminal cases in state and federal courts and has argued before the Supreme Court of the United States, the Supreme Court of Alabama, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Attorney General Pryor has a record of prosecuting public corruption and white-collar crime, streamlining death penalty appeals, and as a leader of reform of both the juvenile justice system and criminal sentencing. Pryor has served as a member of the State and Local Senior Advisory Committee for the White House Office of Homeland Security and as a member of the Advisory Committee for the U.S. Department of Justice on the Bush-Cheney Transition Team. He has a national reputation as a conservative leader for the cause of limited government, judicial restraint, and free enterprise. He has received the Guardian of Religious Freedom Award from Justice Fellowship and Prison Fellowship Ministries, the Civil Justice Achievement Award from the American Tort Reform Association, the Friend of the Taxpayer Award from the Alabama Citizens for a Sound Economy, and the Harlon B. Carter Award from the National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action. A frequent lecturer on law and public policy, Attorney General Pryor has given addresses at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Heritage Foundation, the American Enterprise Institute, the Cato Institute, and the Federalist Society. He has written op-ed articles in The Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, and USA Today, and scholarly articles in several law reviews. He has testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee and its subcommittee on the Constitution, Federalism, and Property Rights, and the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Pryor is a member of the American Law Institute, the Legal Policy Advisory Board of the Washington Legal Foundation, and the Federalist Society. He is the Chairman of the Federalism and Separation of Powers Practice Group of the Federalist Society, and he is the convener for the National Association of Attorneys General Federalism Working Group. In 2001, Pryor served as Chairman of the Republican Attorneys General Association, and in 2000 Pryor served as Alabama Co-Chairman of the Bush-Cheney presidential campaign.

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